

THE PILGRIM

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No. 1

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

GOD OF OUR LIFE

God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;
With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true Promised Land;
Be Thou our Guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown
We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our Daily Bread,
Our heart's Home when all our years have sped.

—by Hugh T. Kerr, 1871-1950

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CHRISTIAN CLOTHING

"Put on your coat. It's cold outside." The concerned mother was helping her small son prepare for school. The son protested feebly, but Mother knew best, and Tommy ran to the bus wrapped warmly.

Another "Put on" admonition in Colossians 3:12-15, comes from a concerned apostle in prison at Rome. Similar to the mother, he sees a need that would possibly be neglected by the ones to whom he is writing. Paul is near the end of a long life of experience; he knows well what he is writing about. This garment he is recommending is mercy, kindness, meekness, longsuffering, and love.

As we step out into the cold experiences and hard facts of a new year, we too can use the instruction of Paul. Whether or not there was a special problem of a lack of love in the Colossian church, we know that human nature needs this instruction. They needed it at Colossae; we need it today.

It is interesting that Paul concentrates on these virtues as something to put on. Perhaps it is not so much a protection like a coat, but more of a garment of appearance that gives impressions to those around us. Our clothes serve several purposes. Some dress mainly for appearance. These would not want to appear different from the current styles. One such lady reportedly said, "I'd rather be dead than not in style!"

Those who are not so interested in style look more for utility —serviceability. This garment of Paul's is serviceable and it looks good. People are blessed by it, and it is particularly becoming to Christians.

Peter writes, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder, Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (I Peter 5:5)

In the Bible are also mentioned "the garment of praise," "the garment of salvation," and "the robe of righteousness." We should be fully clothed. I recently saw a young girl wearing shorts with bare legs, but with a warm sweat shirt and heavy coat on her upper body. Perhaps we may appear this way in our spiritual dressing. Paul writes (I Timothy 2) that a woman should wear modest apparel and be adorned with good works. Peter writes that women's adorning should be a meek and quiet spirit. Men also need similar advice.

After Paul describes what we are to put on as "bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering," he goes on to describe suitable conduct. "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." May 1994 be a time of forbearance and forgiveness as we "rub shoulders" and work together for the advancing of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. There is work to do and, for any job, we must put on the right clothes.

Forbearance and forgiveness will help as we teach others. Study Paul's methods as he introduced the Gospel into new areas. We must be aware that many of those around us have not had Christian training or even good homes. But what is the Gospel for if not for the needy? Jesus said, "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." We must remember our own state without Jesus. Even Christian training without a submissive, converted heart cannot save us. Study the context of I Corinthians 6:11: "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Paul continues citing important Christian practice: "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

This passage is full of suggestions for New Year's resolutions. May we resolve to live for Jesus in 1994 and carry out our resolution by His Spirit's power. -L.C.

TO OUR READERS

A Happy New Year greeting to all our readers! We take this method to thank our brethren and sisters for their faithful support of The Pilgrim. Throughout the past year our hearts have been warmed by donations, by welcome writings, and by selections from publications. We encourage you to continue. Over the years we have had some material we have not used, and can only say that we do our best to print items that will encourage and strengthen the church and honor our Lord. (Our judgment may not always be right.)

This is also an apology for sending the January issue so late. Our older word processor and printer "gave out," and we are planning to obtain more modern equipment. We hope to soon be on schedule again.

Our thanks to each of our subscribers who have already renewed. We are glad for gift subscriptions or names to suggest for sample copies. Most subscriptions expire with the year, but the date beside your name will indicate when yours is due.

Special thanks also to Bill Miller for our mailing labels and to our daughters, Sarah and Rhoda, for their hours of typing, proofreading, and writing.

—Leslie and Martha Cover

BIRTHS

BEERY - A daughter, Allysa Deann, born December 21, to Stephen and Kim Beery of Nappanee, Indiana.

MARTIN - A daughter, Frances Helen, born December 22, to Kevin and Ina Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

BRUBAKER - A daughter, Hosanna Dawn, born December 28, to Stanley and Janice Brubaker of Goshen, Indiana.

ROYER - A daughter, Marian Ruth, born January 1, to Rex and Janice Royer of Nappanee, Indiana.

JESUS, THE TRUE GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE

There are many voices in the world saying, "Follow me," or "Do what I say and live." Jesus said, "Many shall come in my name, saying, 'I am Christ, or I am anointed of God; listen to me.'" He said these people would deceive many. It says in I John 2:27, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you..." And in Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." We would do well to remember Paul's words when the people tried to put too much honor on them: "We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God." We need to point people to Jesus, and not draw attention to ourselves. For if people do things just because we tell them to, how is that of faith? "For whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Why is it, that in our day, the very source of life and salvation is so often lost in the background? Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." Isaiah 12:3,4: "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name..." Jesus said that the water that He would give would be in us a well of water springing up into everlasting life. And in John 7:37, 38: "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." Water that stops flowing becomes stagnant; it dies. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." But if we deny him, he will deny us. Is this a one time thing, or is it for every day of our lives? Jesus said He didn't come to send peace but a sword, "And ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." A wonderful victory was won when

Jesus died at the cross. But to walk in that victory we must walk under its shadow. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." This is the only way to live holy lives in this world. This is the mystery that was hid from ages and from generations, which is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." No wonder in the book of Acts they taught and preached the Lord Jesus. He is the Dayspring from on high, who hath visited and redeemed His people.

—Kevin Garber

Twain Harte, California

CHILDREN'S NEED AND DESIRE FOR DISCIPLINE

There are numerous Scriptures that speak of children's need for discipline. For example, Proverbs 23:13 says, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die." Proverbs 22:15 says, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Other Scriptures could be cited, all expressing need for discipline and showing parents' responsibility to administer it.

But there is another fact about discipline that is not so generally recognized. That is the fact that children desire discipline and want their parents to carry it out. Oh, they are not likely to admit this desire, but it is there all the same. Children know their parents are responsible to make them obey, and they are secretly disappointed when their parents allow them to do as they please.

One young boy demonstrated this truth in a vivid way. He was being noisy and rowdy, and when no one seemed to notice, he began making even more noise. This kept getting worse and worse until finally the boy blurted out, "When is someone going to make me behave?" You see, he felt his need for an adult to con-

trol him because he knew he could not control himself. Children do not usually say those words, but they all need the security of knowing that their parents care enough about them to make them behave.

Here is another example. The Purdue University once make a survey of 100,000 high school students, and over ninety percent of those young people thought their parents were not strict enough. Other surveys have been made that have yielded the same results. Young people wish their parents would say "no" more often. They wish parents would make rules and stick to them. It is true that the young people surveyed probably kicked against the rules their parents did make; yet when they were free to express how they really felt, they wished their parents were more strict.

But we as parents hate to say "no" so often. It seems we have to do it so often that sometimes we break down and say, "All right, we will leave it up to you this time." Do you realize that often when children and young people are kicking the hardest against their parents' rules, they are still crying inside to be restrained? Children are deeply disappointed when they test their parents' restrictions and the parents bow to the children's demands.

Parents usually hope to please the child when they give in to him, but they end up pleasing no one, least of all the child; for when the end comes and the child gets into trouble, he will blame his parents for not keeping him out of it. "If you had made me stay at home," the child will say. "I would not be in this mess." And the parents will have to agree that this is all too true.

The modern idea is that the child is basically good. When something bad comes out, such an idea requires that one find the external influences that are restricting the "little angel." But the Bible approaches the matter from an entirely different angle. It shows that every child has a nature that is basically evil, and he must therefore have proper training and discipline if any good is to come forth from the child.

The Bible method of punishment is the rod. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him

chasteneth him betimes." (Proverbs 13:24) Of course there are also other methods, but too many times we use the rod as the last resort when we should have used it immediately. This is especially true for younger children and for violations of a serious nature. Many people object to using the rod because they say it only creates fear in the child. But this is not true. If the rod is used in love, it will produce both fear and love. And when the physical pain is over, a deep impression will remain that will help the child when he meets his next temptation. Fear and love cannot be separated in a proper relationship between parents and children. Such a relationship does much to prepare the child for a proper relationship with God; for in that relationship, too, fear and love are inseparable twin virtues.

Many parents are afraid the child will think evil of them if they are strict in discipline. But after all, what the child or youth thinks of us now is not really important. It is much more important what he will think of us ten or twenty years from now. Will he respect us then for having had enough backbone to make rules and stick to them? Or will he look down on us for being weak and spineless?

We as parents have many things to learn. Many of us have made mistakes in the past, and we will probably make more. But we need to learn from our mistakes and also be willing to learn from other people, and make a diligent effort to overcome our mistakes, by the grace of God. If we do this, God will be able to bless our efforts and bring about some good results in spite of our mistakes.

—by Wayne Wenger from Light Of Life
selected by Herman Royer

THE TROUBLE WITH LIBERATED WOMEN

We all understand the liberated woman of today is not in line with Bible principles, but do we understand that the underlying trouble is often with the man?

When we men leave the position of authority and leadership in our homes and churches empty, then someone will move in to fill the vacuum that is left. All too often that someone is a capable woman who recognizes the need and steps in to get the job done.

The pattern for leadership was laid in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18-3:16) and reaffirmed by Paul in I Corinthians 11 —where in verse three, we are told the head of the woman is the man, the head of the man is Christ and the Head of Christ is God. This line of leadership was established by God to insure order and stability in our homes and churches, and to facilitate the passing of faith from one generation to the next.

With any position of leadership, there is a greater responsibility for the one who is in authority than for those under his authority. Luke 12:48 says, "...unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

God has committed much to us as heads of our homes and asks much in return. What are some of the scriptural responsibilities required of us as husbands and fathers —the head of the home?

The first one is to find our own place in God's order of authority. Am I submitted to the headship of Christ and the church? Do I respond correctly to church leaders? Do I find it easy to obey civil authority? It is easier to gain respect for my leadership if I am giving that same respect to those over me.

Second, we are commanded as husbands to love our wives as Christ loved the church. (Ephesians 5:25) What an awesome responsibility it is, to love as Christ loved! In comparison, the command for wives to submit seems to pale like the mote against the beam. Husbands and fathers, the best thing we can do to make our homes Godly homes and to make our children feel loved and secure is to love our wives as Christ loved the church. If we men would all do that, then submission on the

part of our wives would be as easy as a fish submitting to water.

The third responsibility given to the head of the home is to teach and train children. (Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:6-9) Of course, husbands and wives are both involved in child training, but the greater responsibility (whether discipline, family worship, or teaching spiritual values) rests on the father.

It is hard to imagine someone's condition as being worse than an infidel. But in I Timothy 5:8 we are told not providing for our families is akin to denying the faith and is worse than an infidel. The fourth area of responsibility for the head of the home is to provide for the financial needs of his family. The scriptural mandate of men as providers and women as keepers at home is not made obsolete by 20th century materialism. When Jesus said to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and the rest would be added to us, He was not referring to all the spending we almost consider a necessity (elaborate vacations, bloated wardrobes, excessive eating out, showplace houses and farms, etc.) Let us take seriously our duty to not only provide financially but to give direction on where and how money is spent.

A final area we should be concerned about as the head of our home, is the overall spiritual —emotional— mental health of our home. If we are providing in the other areas already mentioned, then a healthy atmosphere will naturally follow. And where there is spiritual —mental—emotional health in the home, then it will be easier to pass on the baton of faith to the next generation.

(I offer these ideas not from a position of having already attained, but as goals I am striving for.)

—by Ray Hoover from Exchange Messenger
selected by Lois Martin

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

CONVERSATION

In Matthew 12:36, 37 Jesus said, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Since God looks on our hearts, even if we think evil, we need to seek to be forgiven. We are exposed to much evil speaking, and we need to be very careful what we receive in our hearts. Careless speaking is very habit forming. It takes the precious blood of Jesus to cleanse our hearts.

THOUGHTS

Our thoughts are all important to us, for what we think reveals what is in our hearts. Even if we cannot speak, our thoughts form words in our tongues, and we read in Psalm 139:4: "For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, thou knowest it altogether." Jesus said, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Psalm 50:23: "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."

YOKES

Matthew 11:29-30: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The Lord fashioned a yoke of love, that all believers could work together and help each other with their burdens. The Jews were told to break all the yokes they had made and exercise love and mercy. In Matthew 25, we are told what we will be judged by in that day. "Bear ye one another's burdens; and so fulfill the law of Christ."

—Ernest Wagner

BEARING FRUIT

When man fell from God's favor and fellowship, he took on the nature of the one that caused it. One of the most outstanding characteristics of this nature is the spirit of preeminence.

This was and is Satan's foremost desire —to be exalted above all else. He valued this above the whole world —to have the Son of God fall down and worship him. (Matthew 4:8,9)

This is basically the rub in society today, as men struggle for preeminence and authority over their fellow-men. In politics, in the business world, and even in Christian circles we see these forces at work and the methods used to accomplish it.

The most effective way to overcome someone is not necessarily to face them in open conflict, but to destroy their respect and influence.

Satan did this in the garden. He was able to influence man by claiming God was unfair, and the outcome wouldn't be what God said. He was exalting himself above God.

So it was with Christ. They were not able to overcome Him physically, until they destroyed the influence and respect He had in society.

As we see this spirit around us today, the church is called to reveal a better way, and that is to totally reverse this process in human relations. Philippians 2:3: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Romans 15:6,7: "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefor receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." Galatians 5:13: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Ephesians 4:2: "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." Ephesians 4:32: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even

as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 5:21: "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Colossians 3:13: "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

May we be found acting in these wonderful truths. Jesus says in John 15:8: "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

—Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

BIBLE STUDY —ACTS 28

The last chapter of the book of Acts recounts the events of the final leg of Paul's journey to Rome and his meeting with the Jews there.

The twenty-seventh chapter ends with Paul's ship experiencing shipwreck and everyone on it escaping to land. Acts 28 commences with the discovery that this land was actually the island of Malta. The natives (Luke calls them "barbarous people") received Paul and his companion warmly and showed them hospitality.

It was here that a poisonous snake bit Paul on the hand. The reaction of the natives to this incident is almost humorous but contains a valuable lesson for us. At first they thought that Paul must have been a murderer and was being punished with death for his former misdeeds. However, when Paul didn't die immediately and showed no sign of becoming sick, the natives then concluded that he must be a god. Of course, Paul was neither. This can be a valuable lesson to us when we are tempted to draw conclusions about others based solely on the circumstances surrounding them or the trials which they might be facing. Often our conclusions can be wrong if they are based solely on our own understanding.

After about three months stay on the island of Malta, the shipwrecked company set sail on another boat heading for Rome. After several stops, the ship stopped at the town of Puteoli where the centurion disembarked with Paul, his companion, and the rest of the prisoners headed for Rome. Upon arrival at Rome, Paul was allowed to live in his own house but was guarded there by a soldier.

As was his custom, three days later Paul called together the leaders of the Jews and told them the message of salvation. A larger company met several days later to hear what Paul had to say. Paul preached from morning to evening telling them about the kingdom of God, but some did not believe. Paul then makes the statement in the twenty-eighth verse that God had now opened the way of salvation to the Gentiles.

This chapter concludes one of the most dynamic books in the entire Bible. The book of Acts traces the growth of the early church from a few dedicated believers preaching on the day of Pentecost to a living force that even Caesar himself could not ignore. The book of Acts is more than a historical account of the early church. It is the account of a miracle —the power of God changing the lives of ordinary people and uniting them through the blood of Christ.

—Eddie Wagner

FOR YOUTH: A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Dear Father, I come at the close of this year
My heart full of joy; in my eye there's a tear.
A tear, not for sorrow, but penitence due;
For small the returns of my love unto You.

I think of the love that You've showered on me,
Thy mercy so full and the blessings so free,
I feel I should thank Thee each hour of the day,
But words I can offer would never repay.

I plead for Thy mercy to pardon my sin,
Ere ending this year, a new one begin.
My sin-defiled garments wash white in Thy blood,
Refresh and restore in that life-giving flood.

I'll lay down my past with its failures and shame,
Claim pardon and peace through my Saviour's dear name.
O grant me the faith to look up unto Thee,
To know and to feel that Thy love reaches me.

I stand on the threshold of this dawning year.
With faith in Thy power, there's no doubt or fear.
My hand in Thine own, confidently I place,
For each day will prove all sufficient Thy grace.

O help me more closely to live by Thy side,
From Thee draw my strength whatever betide.
O fill me with love—Thy pure love—through and through
That love may direct all I think, say, and do.

Though feelings may change with each circumstance faced,
Grant that deep, inner peace may not be erased.
O help me to rise, to be brave, strong and true,
To show unto others what I've found in You.

With joy in my heart and my faith strong in Thee,
I face this New Year, and whatever may be,
I trust Thee for guidance—hold fast to my hand.
That I live for Thee wholly, as Thou, Lord, hast planned.

—by Miriam J. Sauder
from Spiritual Hymns

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

THANKING JESUS

When we older folks enter a new year, we are starting a new page in life. You children are starting a new life, a new book. Jesus needed more helpers so that is why you were born. You have something special to do for Jesus. The little ones that are born into this life need to have God fearing parents. You can be very thankful your parents love God. When you are cared for by your parents, you thank them. You talk to your parents about your problems and joys. As a parent I know this brings great joy in their hearts.

One time I was reading a book of children's bedtime prayers to a little girl. I told her that Jesus wants us to thank Him for the many good things we have, especially our good parents. She sat very still. Finally, she said, "I don't pray." I told her she should. It makes Jesus happy when little children talk to Him. She said, "I believe I will."

Jesus said Heaven will be full of children like you. How willing you are to accept the truth. If your parents haven't taught you to say your little prayers, they have just forgotten that Jesus sent you to your parents because He needed a helper. Would you help Jesus by asking your parents to teach you to say your prayers? What better way to start a new life. Talk to the One that made you. This will make Jesus happy and also your parents.

—Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

SUCH LOVE

That God should love a sinner such as I,
Should yearn to change my sorrow into bliss,
Nor rest till He had planned to bring me nigh,
How wonderful is love like this!

That Christ should join so freely in the scheme
Although it meant His death on Calvary,
Did ever human tongue find nobler theme
Than love divine that ransomed me?

That for a wilful outcast such as I,
The Father planned, the Savior bled and died;
Redemption for a worthless slave to buy,
Who long had law and grace defied.

And now he takes me to His heart--a son,
He asks me not to fill a servant's place;
The "Far-off country" wanderings all are done,
Wide open are His arms of grace.

Such love, such wondrous love,
That God should love a sinner such as I,
How wonderful is love like this!

--C. Bishop

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SLEEP

Ding! Ding! Ding! The high tones of my alarm clock penetrated my sleep, and sent my hand searching for the "off" button. Another day was beginning. It was time to wake up. Sleep was so pleasant, and to roll over for a few more minutes was a temptation. Not this time! A day of activity beckons. Work cannot be done while sleeping. "...Now it is high time to wake out of sleep..."

God has provided sleep for tired bodies and rest for weary souls. But God Himself does not sleep. It belongs to us. The need for rest should show us how weak we are. But while we need sleep for our bodies, we are not to "sleep" in our activity for God. Repeatedly we are warned about the danger of sleeping when we should be watching.

What happens when we sleep? Our bodies relax. Breathing and heartbeat slow. We lose consciousness of our surroundings. We become vulnerable to anyone who would do us harm. The hand to hand battles of the past were won when the enemy was caught sleeping. Gideon won his famous battle at night. Even though some were watching, the enemy was weak and easily confused when startled awake by Gideon's strategy of lights, shattering of pitchers, trumpets, and a shout on all sides. The Midianites fought each other and fled in confusion.

Even though we are not asleep, we are weak when we need sleep. We become drowsy. Our senses dull. We do not react quickly. This is a dangerous condition when we are driving a

car. Sometimes a little pain like pinching yourself can help you to wake up when you become sleepy at the wheel. We are not at our best when we need sleep. In school we were taught that a sleep debt builds up when we repeatedly lose sleep. And this debt cannot be fully repaid.

Things happen when we sleep. The world goes on. On the other side of the world it is day. Some of our friends work when we sleep.

When we get sleepy or fall asleep spiritually, things happen also. Our adversary gets busy and he wins battles as we relax and our senses dull. Our armor is laid aside and we are vulnerable.

Consider what can happen when parents fall asleep. The children grow regardless. They learn, but parents being asleep are not teaching them. They cannot control what the children are learning. With the senses dulled, we don't care as much. Family worship either stops or becomes routine and meaningless. Discipline suffers. Children, so needy of guidance and boundaries, are forced to make choices for which they are unprepared. Time is not used to advantage; idleness increases with its temptations. Bad habits take root and become strong.

Consider what can happen when a husband or wife falls into spiritual slumber. The mate is left without support. They may still have fun times together, but spiritual harmony is missing. We lose the concern for Bible study and prayer. It is like trying to enjoy a day of vacation together when one is tired and would rather sleep.

Especially tragic is when drowsiness falls on a congregation of believers. We grow unaware of the needs around us. People suffer and die, endure heartache and temptation, and

we do not care to help. As we heard recently, we should regard interruptions as opportunities, and every person we meet should be considered as a candidate for the Kingdom of Heaven. When we are sleepy spiritually we cannot appreciate these opportunities.

When we sleep we become careless regarding our witness. Our sharpness to follow and obey Jesus becomes dulled. The fashions of the world become more attractive. We begin to look more like the people of the world than the people of God. Even our countenances reflect our dissatisfaction, for we know, through our drowsy condition, that we are not yielding fully to the Holy Spirit.

Paul in I Thessalonians 5:5-8 contrasts night and day, light and darkness, sleeping and watching, drunkenness and soberness: "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others: but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night, and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

Those who are awake spiritually win battles. They are on guard against the enemies of their children. One on guard sometimes has a monotonous job. It is never-ending. It is tiresome. But it pays dividends. Those parents who are awake and watching teach their children the true values of life. Productive projects and chores fill idle time. The lure of Hollywood's entertainment cannot rob them of the enjoyment of nature and the appreciation of cleanliness and virtue. Peace reigns in the home when the parents worship and sing together and with their children.

Those awake and alive to God know that this world has nothing to offer--that it is not our home--that we are not its citizens--that we do not need to copy its customs--to wear its uniforms. They know the value of simple living, frugality in order to share, and modesty. They are aware that a needy world waits for their service. They see two kinds of need: that of a world without adequate food, clothing, health care, and the Gospel; and that of a closer world with abundance of idleness, pride, and fullness of bread but destitute of spiritual life--asleep, starving for the bread of life and without help.

May God grant us the wisdom to know when we are becoming drowsy. When we find ourselves sleepy, may we wake up, even inflict a bit of pain, to be aware of the needs both in our families, in our churches, and in the world around us. --L.C

THE RESULTS OF REPENTANCE

The beginning of the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus was a call to repentance. This is a basic and continued theme in the New Testament.

This is emphasized as a necessity at the beginning of our Christian walk. It is also a continued requirement at any time we realize we have done wrong.

What is this thing, and what results follow it? The dictionary says repentance is a regret and sorrow for past words or actions that will cause a complete change of actions.

When we publicly commit our lives to the Lord, we agree to renounce sin and all evil ways. We also agree to yield full obedience to

the Lord. This is a good and essential part of the Christian walk.

Unfortunately, our carnal nature does not die at this point, and Satan does not give up. In reality the battle is now begun in earnest. Praise God! From this point on, His power is constantly available to us to rout the adversary and to win the victory over self!

This will require our constant prayers and seeking God's strength. It will also require daily denying our selfish desires.

Here is crossbearing. We daily fail, and need continual repentance and commitment.

Oh how great our continual need of God's grace! How great our need of patience, and longsuffering with each other!

In this daily crossbearing (failing, repenting, and recommitment), a subtle and extreme danger appears. We are likely to begin justifying or defending what we call small faults instead of repenting and, with God's help, overcoming them.

Are we ever guilty of wanting to find out things that are none of our business, thus being a busybody in other people's affairs?

Are we ever guilty of gossiping? Do we say things about others we would not say to them?

Do we cause disunity or strife? Do we harbor envy or bitterness in our hearts?

Do we ever justify dishonesty, or doing other things we know are not right?

If we do not acknowledge these things to be sin, learn to hate them, and repent of them, and with God's help overcome them, then they will doom our souls to hell just as surely as immorality, drunkenness, and other gross things!

May we diligently heed John the Baptist's advice in Matthew 3:8: "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance..."

Peter tells in I Peter 3:10,11, that if we would love life, and see good days, we should not speak evil or guile. He further says, we should hate evil, and do good, and seek peace.

If only we could more clearly see what we might call small sins, as what they are in truth: poison to the soul--we would more diligently root them out. May God help us in this effort!

Oh! 'twas a little sin, we say;
It did not matter much.
Just a white lie; the "old man's" way;
Just a sharp word, or such.

Ah, we mean well, we just can't help
Our failings every day.
The carnal man is such a whelp,
He's bound to have his way.

Is this our attitude in life?
That we can't rise above
These sinful attitudes in life,
To yield to God's great love?

If this is true within our heart;
We're not reborn today.
The Lord has fully done His part;
'Tis that we want our way.

If we don't hate the smallest sin,
And want with all our heart
To overcome, a victory win,
Then we've not done our part.

Let's keep our conscience tender now,
As on through life we go,
And when conviction comes, let's bow,
Repent, and plead, and grow.

For in our constant seeking him,
His strength He will impart,
Until at last we'll be like Him,
And from all sin we'll part.

--James Beery
Nappanee, Indiana

TRUE LIGHTS

So many are the influences for evil. Who will be a beacon light for truth, purity, and holiness? Only those who have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb can be true bright and shining witnesses in this evil world. Only those who are walking by faith in the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world can be true witnesses. Only those who are willing to die to self, the flesh, and the earth-minded man, and are looking for a city, which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God, can be true lights. Out of our own mouths will we be condemned if we profess to be Christians and yet walk by sight knowing only the security this world gives and are fearful and unbelieving. Oh for a people who are willing to walk by faith, who are willing to give up the securities and pleasures of this world, and give themselves completely to the Lord Jesus without reserve. Only then will you see a people of power, peace, and joy--a people with an other world mind set, who are willing to be fools in this world for Christ's sake, who are willing to count all but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ the Lord, knowing more than head knowledge, and lip service, but the reality of a life hid with Christ in God. Jesus is coming soon for such a people. Praise God and the Lamb forever!

--Kevin Garber
Twain Harte, California

JEREMY DUANE MARTIN, infant son of Neil and Lois Martin, New Paris, Indiana, was stillborn at 12:10 a.m. Wednesday, December 29, 1993, in Goshen General Hospital.

Graveside services were held at 3:00 p.m. at Old Brethren Church Cemetery, Goshen.

We sincerely thank all for their concern and kindness shown.

--Neil, Lois, and family

A smile you never saw upon his face
And chubby hands he never clasped around your neck
His eyes, they never saw the lighted day,
And with his little feet he never ran and played.

But wait! Through faith we see though 'tis
through cloudy glass and tear-filled eyes.
The child so lifeless here is with the Father kind.
With face uplift in light and life, with love so sweet
Can't we imagine that he'll play with children
on God's street?

The heaviness upon our hearts becomes more light
For we remember through the gift of God's own Son we now have sight
To see beyond this scene of death and pain,
A life eternally together there with Him.

The darkness of today makes heaven's light more bright
He'll give the strength for each "today" till
we have clearer sight

--Written by Miriam Beery

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

HOPE

Romans 15:13: "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." So if we have hope in the promise of something better in the future, our afflictions don't seem too hard. We are told God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. It is too much to understand how God could suffer for our sins. But if we accept, we all become one with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost. So we need to let the Lord prepare us to be in His divine company.

ASHAMED

Mark 8:38: "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." So we see it is necessary to uphold the words of Jesus, even though it is dispersed and considered ignorant by this generation.

KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Romans 1:28: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." So we see the natural man wants to follow the knowledge of evil, and reject the knowledge of good. God's Spirit will strive with man as long as there is hope of saving him, but if it only brings resentment, He will let man depart and have his own way to destruction.

--Ernest Wagner

BLEST CITY

In that city, bright and fair
Soon with loved ones I shall be:
"Tis built by God, so firmly
It can never pass away.

Many loved ones left us
For that city bright and fair;
Here no tears are ever shed;
They with joy are waiting for me.

Toward that pure and Holy City
Oft my longing eyes I cast;
For I know God has prepared a mansion
In that blest city where all the redeemed
will go.

--E.M. Alltus

Question for the Pilgrim:

What are the scriptural reasons for not teaching the doctrine of "eternal security"? And a related question: Can someone be truly saved if he is living a very evil life? I would like to know to be more able, if possible, to give a good answer to anyone who might ask.

--Martha Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

HOME DUTIES: THE DUTIES OF HUSBANDS

"Let every one of you in particular so love his wife as himself." Ephesians 5:33

The word husband is an Anglo-Saxon word, which means the band of the house, or the master of the house, the one who organizes it,

and holds it together, and controls it. The wife is his chief assistant in this work, though often she is the more efficient of the two--the real band of the house.

Just as all our duties to God and man are summed up in the one word love, so all the duties which the husband owes the wife are summed up in the command of the text to love that wife.

Love is a short word, but clustered around and folded within its every letter lie all the duties that we owe to God and our fellow men. Much confusion of thought arises from the two or more meanings which the word love has in our language. It may mean, as in the command to love God and our neighbor, (1) the voluntary choice of the highest good and happiness of others; or it may mean (2) love as an affection, especially as it exists between the sexes. And, under the general duty of love, this is the husband's first duty to his wife:

1. To love her with an affectionate love.

Some suppose that this kind of love is not under one's control; that it comes and goes as it will. This is a mistake. It may not always be a direct act of the will, but it is under the indirect control of the will.

To preserve this love is a vital part of the marriage vow. When a man chooses from all the women in the world one woman to be his companion for life, he solemnly promises before God and man to love her with an affectionate love.

That love should be as real and genuine after they have been married twenty-five or fifty years as it is on the morning of the wedding day. It need not be so demonstrative. We hardly expect the same outward expressions of love in an aged couple as in the newly-married couple. But the love should exist just

the same--less demonstrative because age is less demonstrative than youth, but real and genuine, and manifesting itself in a thoughtful courtesy, a true politeness, and a loving gentleness toward her who has walked by his side for many years, and with him borne the burdens of life.

You may give your wife costly Christmas, or birthday, or wedding anniversary presents; you may furnish her with fine dresses, a beautiful home, costly carriages, and send or take her to fashionable watering places; but her heart hungers for something more--even the free, hearty, continued, daily affection of your heart. Nothing else can take its place. The other things are valuable only as they are tokens of such affection.

And do not always assume that she knows of your love. God knows that we love Him--if thus we do--but He wants us to tell Him of it every day. You know that your child loves you, but you never tire of having that child put its little arms around your neck and say, "Papa, I love you ever so much." It will give your wife immeasurable pleasure if you occasionally tell her, with a kiss, that she is dearer to you than ever.

--by R.T. Cross from Home Duties, 1896-1899, an old book found among Aunt Bertie Baker's things.

BIRTHS

HOOVER -- A son, Noah David, born January 22, to Glen and Rachel Hoover of Goshen, Indiana

ROYER -- A daughter, Charity Dawn, born February, 4, to Joe and Elizabeth Royer of Mishawaka, Indiana.

BEARING FRUIT

Humanity struggles to find fairness and equality in the distribution of the world's goods and services, and seems to make no progress in it. This is not because of a lack of laws and legislations, but because of a problem within.

Humanity is selfish. Man would like to do his own thing, and receive his share, without the sweat and diligence that it requires. With this is a spirit that feels that it is "more blessed to **receive** than to **give**," but to receive in this spirit never satisfies.

We believe the Christian community has found the answer to this social problem, in the Spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One of the great concerns of a Christian is the welfare of our fellowman. The apostle John says, "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

The apostle Paul wrote that: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." If this spirit could be in the hearts of all men, there would be no want for anyone; those in honest need would never have to suffer.

Scripture says: "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." And, "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

To have this concern for our fellowman and to do something about it takes discipline and self denial. This is not an option, but a requirement which we find in Jesus Christ.

"But if any provide not for his own, and

specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (I Timothy 5:8)

Ephesians 4:28 says, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you: That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing." (I Thessalonians 4:11,12).

Paul writes in II Thess. 3:8-13, "Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you; Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing."

The NIV version of Titus 3:14 says, "Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives."

Col. 1:10 says: " That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

--Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

CHILDREN'S PAGE: ARE YOU SICK?

The past several weeks these words have been asked a lot. Several of us have had the flu. When we are sick the ones around us can see we are sick. The Bible tells us of a little boy who went with his daddy to the field to harvest grain. The child got sick and told his daddy that he had a bad headache. His daddy told a helper to carry the child home to his mother. The child sat on his mother's lap quite awhile and then died. The sad mother found a man of God and he raised the boy to life again. How grateful the Mother was!

There are other kinds of sickness that aren't so easily noticed by others. Disobedience and not telling the truth are serious sicknesses.

Jesus tells us of a man that had two sons. One day the father told the first son to go work in his field. The son said he would not. Later he changed his mind and went. The father told the second son to work also. The second son said he would but he didn't go.

Which son would you say was sick? Both looked and acted alike. But the second son is in serious condition. If he doesn't find a cure he will surely die.

When we are sick, we go to the doctor and get medicine. Your parents can give you the medicine for this serious illness. Please listen to them. Those that aren't cured will not enter into Heaven.

--Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

MY LORD AND I

Sung amid the rocks and caves of France during
the fierce Huguenot persecutions 300 years ago.

I have a friend so precious, So very dear to me,
He loves me with such tender love,
Loves me so faithfully;
I could not live apart from him,
I long to feel Him nigh,
And so we dwell together--my Lord and I.

Sometimes I'm faint and weary,
He knows that I am weak,
And, as he bids me lean on Him,
His help I gladly seek;
He leads me in the paths of light,
Beneath a sunny sky,
And so we walk together--my Lord and I.

I tell him all my sorrows,
I tell him all my joys,
I tell him all that pleases me,
I tell him what annoys;
He tells me what I ought to do,
He tells me what to try,
And so we talk together--my Lord and I.

He knows how I am longing
Some precious soul to win
Back to the ways of righteousness
From weary paths of sin;
He bids me tell his wondrous love
And why he came to die,
And so we work together--my Lord and I.
--F.S. Shepard

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TV: THE MENACE OF TRUE VALUES

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (I John 2:15) John wrote it and faithful brethren have proclaimed it. Reaction to this theme has been varied. Some perhaps will groan and sigh with boredom, thinking it is a 'broken record'--an overdone emphasis. But I am sure it is as vital and relevant in our time as ever--and perhaps more so than ever before.

We hear of people who would tame a wild animal like a tiger and have it for a pet. Pets like this can be educational; they are interesting and beautiful; from knowing them and their habits we can see the creative ingenuity of God. But they are potentially dangerous killers. Most sensible people would not consider having such a danger in their homes regardless of the benefits. Yet many today have allowed television to sit in their living rooms.

I am not armed with statistics (though they are available). Neither do I know how many have been killed by "tamed" wild beasts. But I can see what is happening in the world around us. A whole generation has grown up with a steady diet of TV. It has trained the youth to need to be entertained. This is the enemy of responsibility. We have probably all had the feeling of sitting down to a program of entertainment of some kind. You need only relax, sit back, and enjoy the presentation. This can be good for us if the program is beneficial. But if this happens regularly and no response is required, and the program has no

value, it is as fatal as the attack of a wild beast. Our sense of duty withers and dies. We develop an appetite for whatever we watch most. Unless there is a dramatic and miraculous rescue from such a pattern, we are hooked on the "plug-in drug."

We may protest that many programs are good and that the TV can be used to spread the Gospel. This may be true. After all, TV is only an instrument--a medium of communication. But my plea is not about what it could be but what it is and what it is actually doing in our generation.

Not long ago we stayed overnight at a motel. The TV worked, and I thought I might see what is really going on. I was not without a little interest in what might be exciting or fun to watch. The first program was so repulsively violent that we could take only a few minutes of it. The next program we watched was full of intrigue and evil and wasn't much better. We did see also a news type of program describing various fruits and some of the problems farmers face. Modern, confident, made-up women dominate many of the programs.

Some of you readers could give a much better description of what is offered on TV. Some may defend it. But I would ask you to assess the overall influence it has. Take your Bible and see if you can find support for it there.

I read in Revelation 12:15, "And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth." This probably refers to more than TV. The flood of cheap ungodly novels and even pornography is, in our time issuing from the mouth of the serpent.

The "world" is swallowing this stuff. How this could "help the woman" is not clear, but perhaps the market in the world for this corruption takes the pressure off God's people and helps to identify it for what it is.

In view of all this, Christians need to be on guard. Jesus calls for a separation. In Matthew 12:33 He says, "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit." He continues with a terrible indictment on that generation and on ours: "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Some may be able to control the tiger. But many do not. Children are growing up without being given the training and examples that they have a right to receive. Instead of encouraging children in good things, TV takes up time that children should spend in constructive work and educational study. Violence and immorality, subjects that appeal to the carnal nature in children and adults, fill prime time. We should mourn and call upon God to use us in our time to sound the warning and not be deceived.

God's Word is pure and clear. It is nourishing. If we use it instead of the poison the world offers, our children will be healthy and strong--able to resist temptation and to be used of God to stem the tide and be a positive influence for Christ and the right. --L.C.

Galatians 1:11

In many secular professions there are levels of knowledge, such as Certified Nursing Assistants, Certified Mechanics, Certified Accountants. It means that they have reached the standard level of knowledge to do the service.

Here, Paul addresses the Galatians, "But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man." (Gal. 1:11) He is making known a certain fact, a simple fact that the Gospel came by Jesus Christ. Why would he make such a statement? Because he was "amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ." (Gal. 1:6-7 NASB) We can relate to that, can't we? It wasn't a totally new gospel, but a subtle adding to, a distortion, which caused a disturbance. They had added Judaism, elevating the "tradition of my fathers" (verse 14), which Paul is identifying with here and relates to them details of his former life as a Jew.

This shows how prone we are to listen to man if it sounds good or appeals to our way of thinking, instead of going straight to the Gospel of Christ. "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (1:8) Paul doesn't put himself above error; but Peter was found in error (2:11-21), and now these Galatians, these once-certified brethren, were fallen asleep into error! This should disturb us and cause us to search our ways and see if they measure up to the Gospel of Christ.

Now Paul makes a profound statement that only an Apostle can make: "For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1:12) Here, Paul is giving his credentials, signifying his authority. "But I certify you..."; I want you to know without question that this I preach is not "...patterned after any human standard." (verse 11, Amplified)

He goes even further: He explains that after his conversion, or "revelation" he "conferred not with flesh and blood" (verse 16c) for three years but went into Arabia. Then, after three years, he returned to Damascus and went to Jerusalem to see Peter. He was with Peter for 15 days. He saw none of the other Apostles, except James, the Lord's brother. (verses 16-19)

He has gone to great length and detail to "certify" to these brethren that his prerequisites are not from any man, but from Jesus Christ alone by communing with Him for three years in seclusion from other brethren and Apostles.

Now, getting back to the subject; Paul is wanting them to understand that they have accepted some false teaching. They need to know "that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (2:16) Circumcision is of no avail; heritage is of no avail; genealogy is of no avail, etc. We are not justified by the workings of externals. The Lord explained to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." II Cor. 12:9b)

The Galatians were in a bad way. They had

built back what Paul had destroyed and in so doing were transgressing the grace of God. (2:17-21) "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God." (verse 19) The law was our schoolmaster, or as Charles Williams translates it, "So the law has been our attendant to lead us to Christ, so that we might through faith obtain right standing with God. But now that this faith has come, we are no longer in charge of the attendant. For all of you are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." (3:24-26, Williams N.T. In the Language of the People) He explains in the footnote for "attendant": "Usually a slave who cared for the Greek child on their way to and from the teacher." Faith took the place of the "slave." So Paul could say "I through the law am dead to the law"; the law was nullified through Christ Jesus who fulfilled the law, but now His grace is our very substance. "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (2:21) But He didn't die in vain! We have been freed from the bondage of sin and the law (Gal. 2:4; 5:1), and because of the resulting liberty, we have unspeakable joy!

In Acts 15, we have a similar situation. The believing Pharisees insisted that the Gentiles be circumcised or, "you cannot be saved." Then Peter arose and instructed them, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?" (verses 8-10) Again we see that God needs no external distinguishing factor because He

looks at the heart. That is so hard for someone to understand who has relied on externals for so long. How could someone be cleansed by something you couldn't see? It truly is amazing, but Christ did it all for us. He cleanses (justifies) our hearts by faith in Him. "And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments." (1 John 2:3 NASB) "For we through the Spirit by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness." (Gal. 5:5 NASB)

"I certify you, brethren..."

We'll continue into the subject of faith and works in a forthcoming article.

--Ron Cable
Goshen, Indiana

AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

On February 6, 1994, I stopped at the AM-PM gas station west of Riverbank at approximately 9:45 p.m. I got gas, used the restroom, and when I came out I met two guys who accused me of running them off the road. The biggest one did most of the talking while the other one stood kind of behind me. Right off I knew I had trouble, so I started telling them about Jesus, that He died for them, and that they couldn't afford to die without Him, that He was their only hope. I said that all the misery and violence and pain was the result of sin, and Jesus died because of it. They asked me where Jesus was and what was He like. I said He was at the right hand of God the Father, and also in my heart, that He was totally good, and just, and upright, and that He was coming soon for His people. He threatened to take me in the bathroom, and shoot me through the mouth. I said I wasn't afraid to die and that if they

killed me, I would go to be with Jesus. I said, in fact, I would rather leave this world of sin and be with Jesus. I think most of the battle passed by when they saw I wasn't afraid of them, or afraid to die. At least once he reached his hand to his back pocket, but never brought anything out. I told them my God was all powerful, and that they couldn't hurt me unless He allowed them to. I said all have sinned; that's why Jesus came. He said his mother just died, and that she never did anything wrong, and was I calling her a sinner? I said everyone has sinned except Jesus. He asked me why God would allow his mother to die since she never did anything wrong. I said He is God and I'm not, I can't tell you why she died. I'm not sure how long it lasted--I think 15 to 20 minutes. He ended up telling me several times I was very lucky, and the other one said they got the wrong guy. I said if you don't remember anything else, remember: You can't afford to die without Jesus and His blood covering your life. We ended up by shaking hands, and I told them I had no hard feelings. The more quiet one who stood behind me was visably touched when we parted. Praise God for His grace and mercy.

--Kevin Garber

Twain Harte, California

Better with God in dark valleys than without Him in green pastures.

Even in this age of inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.

--Selected

HOME DUTIES: THE DUTIES OF HUSBANDS
(CONTINUED)

THE MEASURE OF A HUSBAND'S LOVE

You are to love your wife as you love yourself and as Christ, giving Himself for it. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the Church."

This means unselfishness. A husband ought always to be ready to risk his life for the life of his wife. As he would defend himself from harm and danger so should he defend her. What shall we say of those husbands, those brutes rather, who during a yellow fever pestilence in the South, deserted their wives when those wives were taken sick, and left them to die alone or among strangers? At the risk of their own lives, they should have stood by them.

To love your wife as yourself means that you provide for her wants as for your own. It means that you be careful, at least, for her comforts as for your own. It means that if you can afford for yourself any of the comforts or luxuries of life, you should give her an equal share. Are you able to spend ten cents a day, or fifty, for fruit, or soda-water? Then you should give her an equal amount, or divide that amount with her, so that she can have something with which to buy the luxuries of her choice. If you do not do this, you are selfish and are not loving your wife as yourself.

If you love her as yourself, you will be as ready to find excuses for her faults as for your own, and instead of speaking to her unkind

and bitter words--words that hurt--you will be gentle in your speech.

There is a little poem whose beauty as a poem is surpassed only by the beauty and truth of its sentiment. It is a good poem not only for husbands, but also for wives, for parents, for children, for brothers and sisters. It is a good poem to hang up in your sitting room, better still to hang up in your heart, that you may never speak to your loved ones any words that you will remember with bitter regret when their lips and eyes are closed forever.

OUR OWN

"If I had known in the morning
How wearily all the day
The words unkind would trouble my mind
I said when you went away,
I had been more careful, darling,
Nor given you needless pain,
But we vex our own with look and tone
We may never take back again.

"For though in the quiet evening
You may give me the kiss of peace,
Yet it might be that never for me
The pain of heart should cease.
How many go forth in the morning,
That never come home at night!
And hearts have broken for harsh words spoken,
That sorrow can ne'er set right.

"We have careful thoughts for the stranger,
And smiles for the transient guest,
But oft for "our own" the bitter tone,
Though we love "our own" the best.
Ah, lips with the curve impatient!
Ah, brow with that look of scorn!
'Twere a cruel fate, were the night too late
To undo the work of morn."

--by R.T. Cross from Home Duties, 1896-1899.

Covetousness has a strong hold on unregenerate man. It makes him demanding and ungrateful. He never refuses aid and is slow and reluctant to reach out in aid to other--or is seemingly never able to. He feels like he has been bypassed by his fellowmen, and is unable to support a corporate effort of the church, unless it is for his own benefit. His security is in the world's system: Government hand outs, playing the insurance game--perchance to be the winner--demanding the limit and more--demanding his "rights", playing the lottery system for the million dollar sweepstakes, continually eating the bait of the business world to get something free. Someday he'll be the winner and can be delivered from covetousness.

Jesus has called us to be the light of the world. We are to let our light shine in the presence of men, that they might see the road of truth and right. For us to be a light in the matter of covetousness, we need to be delivered from its bondage, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripturally we should feel a greater blessing in helping in the need of our fellowmen than if we would win a million dollars, truly believing "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

It's quite clear in scripture that our material status has no bearing in this testimony, as the poor widow has shown us. (Mark 12:42-44)

It seems like most of us have to experience being on the receiving end at times. It is part of God's plan to purify us. When we receive aid from someone, we understand that it was freely given--no demands made. But we know

it wasn't "free" for the one who gave it; it cost my brother's toil and sweat. He willingly shared his life with me. This produces a relationship that nothing else will, if we have been delivered from covetousness.

So it is with salvation that our Lord gave us. It is free, but not until we can feel and sympathize with what it cost Him, can we really have a meaningful relationship with Him.

A covetous person is attracted to the community of believers because he desires the blessing of receiving, but not until he had found the greater blessing of giving, will he find true joy and blessing.

Matthew 7:16 says: "Ye shall know them by their fruits."

--Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

ADDRESS CHANGES

Ruth Flora	9701 Hogpath Rd. Greenville, OH 45331
Dale Savage's	236 E. Main St. P.O. Box 258 Gettysburg, OH 45328-0258 (513) 447-9211
Greg Flora's	68607 C.R. 13 Nappanee, IN 46550 (219) 831-6437

BIRTH

BOWMAN -- A son, Ian Michael, born February 22 to Jerry and Janelle Bowman of Tipp City, Ohio.

A Christian doesn't just say
I love you Jesus and go his way

A Christian is saved, that is true,
Because of this, he learns to do.

He doesn't just listen and hear
But obeys his Lord with holy fear.

He endures in trouble and in trial,
And encourages others with a smile.

He knows that Jesus may come today,
He is ready, His lamp lights his way.

--by Sharon See

Santa Rosa, California

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATION: IMAGINATION

II Corinthians 10:5: "Casting down
imaginations, and every high thing that
exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,
and bringing into captivity every thought to
the obedience of Christ." So we know, we have
a constant struggle in our hearts to maintain
the truth, against the flood of falsehoods of
our day, when Satan is making a last effort to
gain the victory over Christ. --Ernest Wagner

COMMUNION MEETING NOTICE

We, the members of the Old Brethren Church
in California, have agreed to hold our Spring
Lovefeast, the Lord willing, at Salida on April
16 and 17. We sincerely welcome all to come and
be with us at this time of communion and
revival.

--Joseph L. Cover

YOUTH PAGE: WORKING FOR JESUS

I'm working for Jesus
To please Him each day
In each thought and action,
In each word I say.
It is not by might
Or what I have done,
But by His great power
The crown shall be won.

I'm looking to glory!
O, wondrous delight!
I see Jesus standing
In heaven's own light.
I'm happy, so happy!
All glory to God!
I tread heavenly pathways,
In Christ's armor shod.

It's not always easy,
To keep in His way,
But, dear friends, I tell you,
Oh, please let me say;
It is not by my might
Or what I have done,
But by His great power
The crown shall be won.

--Anonymous

--Selected by Emily Brubaker

BAPTISM

On January 9, we were happy to have Anthony Byers unite with us by Christian baptism upon the confession of his faith in Jesus. May he ever be true to the One who brought life and salvation to all who will faithfully serve Him.

--Melvin Coning

CHILDREN'S PAGE: THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM

In the spring we see birds pulling worms out of the ground. The bird that gets there first gets the worms. That is how the birds get their strength to do their duties. They work hard. Have you ever watched one make a nest? They make many trips back and forth until the nest is finished. They are careful what they use. If they would use just anything the nest would fall apart. Then the babies would be eaten by the waiting cat on the ground. Sometimes we see a picture of a roaring water falls with the water rushing fast over the rocks. Over the water is a tree limb. In the limb is a bird on a nest. The bird is happy and content. She knows the nest is built well.

Children are like little birds. They are always hungry. Be eager to learn what your parents teach you. Be like the bird in the yard. Work and work till you have the worm. The earlier you digest what you are taught the stronger you will be. Someday you will build strong homes for others. What you do now will affect others. Some one is watching you. Do not build your future with just anything. Remember the bird. Search till you find the proper material. Jesus says children should honor their parents. You can give them the highest honor by doing what they tell you.

The child that learns the good things early gets the blessing. --Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

JESUS LIVES!

Jesus lives! I live with Him.
Death no more my soul shall frighten.
Now He lives, and at His call,
From death's sleep I shall awaken;
I am glorified in Thee;
This my confidence shall be.

Jesus lives! O'er all the world
Power supreme to Him is given.
With my Saviour I shall live;
I shall reign with Him in heaven.
Thus in God confiding still;
He His promise will fulfill.

Jesus lives! And I shall find
Life in Him and full salvation.
Ne'er oppose Him; He shall then
Make your heart His habitation.
Weakness is overcome in Thee;
This my confidence shall be.

Then rejoice, His children dear,
In His guidance and protection;
Death may come, but do not fear:
There shall be a resurrection
When the final trump shall call,
From the graves awaking all!

--Translated from the German
from Zion's Harp

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FOR ME

The hymn says, "My Saviour bore it all for me." Lately we have been remembering vividly the suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even though it happened nearly 2000 years ago, the account is fresh in our minds because we are so closely involved. Another hymn says:

It was alone the Saviour prayed
In dark Gethsemane;
Alone He drained the bitter cup
And suffered there for me.

The fact that He suffered alone, suffered for me, accomplished what we could not do, and rescued us when we were in such need, should make us forever grateful.

Consider how in need we were. If we do not know the truth about ourselves--that is, if we believe life is over when we die physically, then we are not so impressed by this need. But if we believe what God has revealed about us--that when we die here we will be called to give account of our stewardship on earth--then we can see more clearly why God Himself provided a way for us to escape condemnation. He loved us and gave Himself for us.

Out in the middle of the Niagara River just above the famous falls is lodged an old steel barge. It clings to a tiny but firm island, though it looks as if it could break loose at any time and be swept over the falls. What relief the men on that barge must have felt when it lodged there! This is how man was headed for certain destruction, but rescued just in time.

As the men on the barge were, we were

without power to rescue ourselves. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." "...While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Read this in Romans 5. To save ourselves would be like standing on a board you were trying to lift. It would be like two men falling from a cliff saying to one another, "Here, stand on my hands and I will lift you back up." We were like the man in the parable Jesus told in Matthew 18:23-35. He owed his king 10,000 talents, and he had nothing at all with which to pay him back. The only way it could be settled was for the king to forgive him.

For us to be forgiven, sin had to be atoned for. This Jesus did for us. There was no other way. This we know from the words Jesus prayed in the garden: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." That cup was His suffering and death--His humiliation at the hands of those whom He had created. He did this for me. Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

It remains for us to respond to this Saviour. In our modern world, where more and more He is simply being ignored, we must present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service. Confess Him before men as Saviour and Lord. Study to please Him. Adore, honor, worship Him and Him alone.

As we were powerless to save ourselves from judgment, so are we unable to live a life of service to Him except by the power of His Spirit. He calls us to our own death and resurrection. Paul says "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the

Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." "If we be dead with Him, we shall also live with him." Jesus made this provision for you and me. Praise His holy name!

For me Christ died; for me He rose;
For me He conquered all my foes;
For me His life He freely gave
In victory over death and grave.

If this is true that I was lost
And only One, at highest cost,
Could take my place and thereby free
My soul from death and misery;

What kind of life ought I to live;
What everlasting thanks should give.
But woe is me; I still am not
Able to serve Him as I ought.

O help me, Holy Spirit; fill
My feeble heart, that somehow still
I may confess Him everywhere
Because for me He suffered there. -L.C.

THE BEAUTY OF THE VALLEYS

I recently had the privilege of taking a hike from the top of a mountain, down into a valley where a stream was running. I was amazed at the beauty of the lush green grass and plants. There were various kind of wild flowers blooming and the birds seemed so happy filling the air with their songs. At one place in particular the air was so perfumed, I had to stop a bit and take it in. It seemed so peaceful and full of life, quite a contrast from the mountain top. I believe there is a

spiritual application here we can benefit by. You could liken the valleys to a cup; they tend to hold the rain and the riches from the highlands while the mountains shed the rain. Also the valleys seem emptied of self, while the mountains seem full. I will liken the mountains to the lofty attainments of man, that which he tends to glory in, and the valleys to the low places in life: sorrow, suffering, and brokenness. Man tends to glory in the mountains, but God sees great beauty in the valleys. For only when we fall on the Lord Jesus, and are broken, or die to self, can we bring forth fruit to His glory. "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." (Phil. 1:29) And we are made joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him. (Rom 8:17) If we know the Lord, the valleys can be a blessed and life giving time of sweet communion with the King. For it's while going through the valleys of sorrow and brokenness that His Presence seems nearest. The riches that come from walking with Jesus far exceed anything this world has to offer. For His name shall be called Wonderful. Jesus who knew the beauty and splendor of heaven, descended into the valley of this world for the suffering of death. But, O the beauty that shines forth from Calvary! He invites us to walk with Him through the valley of this world, not expecting our reward here, but laying up treasure in heaven. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Why? Because the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; saith, I dwell in the high and holy place, with Him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit. I don't think pride is much of a problem to the poor, those that hunger now, those that weep now, those who are hated

now for Jesus sake. Jesus said those are blessed. But He said, woe to the rich, to the that are full, to them that laugh now, to those whom all men speak well of. Why? Could it be because it's very hard to tread the mountains of this world without our hearts being lifted up with pride. And pride is the original sin that started the whole sin problem. And also, how can we take our ease, and eat, drink, and be merry, when the very souls Jesus died for are perishing. Someday, "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low..." (Luke 3:5) Are you like a mountain, filled with self, praised of men, but not of God? Or are you like a valley, emptied of self, broken before God, and ready for His filling? Blessed are those who are willing to walk the valleys of this world for Jesus sake for someday they shall go to the mountain c the Lord.

--Kevin Garber

Twain Harte, California

THE BAPTIZING

We were taught in our home never to speak lightly of sacred things. The seriousness of baptism was impressed on us early in life. Baptisms were high spots in church life: a time for uniting of hearts and reaffirmation of the faith. All who could, went, of course. Usually it took place in a stream or lake. This time, the Lord, being merciful, had shown our brother, Joseph (the oldest of seven children), his need of a Saviour, and this was the day of his baptism.

He had wept as he confessed his need in the "family worship" circle. As I (his junior by eight years) had always idolized him as my "big brother," I could not understand why he was so bad. I had always thought otherwise.

A small boy's admiration of big brother always watched and was ready for encouragement. When he was chosen to stack straw at the end of the old time thresher, the small boy was no doubt the more proud of the two. When the straw carrier broke and big brother called them to stop, and one of the men said, "Bless the boy," it seemed wonderful to have such an important brother.

Then there were cold nights when we laid "spoon-fashion" in bed to keep warm. Here I was drilled in the alphabet and later in the multiplication tables. Our papa liked to see us together and planned accordingly. Big brother cut the wood, I carried it in; he led the animals to water while I pumped; I drove for him while he cultivated. He was always a ready doctor for all my small ills.

Sitting in the family circle while he wept, we children all felt "shook up" inside. I'm sure we all felt the same. If he had sinned, how about us? However, we were all praying children (we prayed at bedtime, kneeling at our beds, each taking turns according to age, repeating the time-honored prayer of childhood, "Now I lay me down to sleep..."), and did not question matters we felt were the concern of our parents. A sweet sacredness settled upon our home.

Our church group was admittedly strict. We knew something of the past struggles to get away from infant baptism. The brethren would ask the applicant for baptism, "Is this your choice?" The church rules were given and accepted. Individual and group responsibilities were taken on as a matter of course.

We children instinctively grew in his experience. We knew his sincerity. He was starting his manhood in open acceptance of the Christian faith, with the Bible as the inspired

Word of God; knowing too he was setting an example for the rest of us.

There is nothing quite like Christian baptism outdoors in a flowing stream. We who have had this experience should be truly thankful. Of course all who have taken this step of faith in following their Lord should treasure those precious moments associated with their first love and obedience to Christ.

Someone had to go ahead to open and close the gate, where we left the road to follow some old half-forgotten trail through the bushes. Clouds of mosquitos awaited in the shadows, and one tried to tie his horse in the sunlight. Turtles and frogs blissfully sunning on the river bank and fallen logs promptly dived into the depths below. Noisy birds quieted to watch from some aerial perch. Grazing cows kept a respectful distance, the bells on their neck telling their whereabouts; a distant dog's bark showed he knew something unusual was happening. Small boys looked for flat stones to skip on the water, but were quickly restrained.

There was singing, perhaps the old favorite:

"In all my Lord's appointed ways

My journey I'll pursue.

Hinder me not, ye much loved saints;

For I must go with you."

Portions of Matthew 18 were read and commented upon and then all knelt in prayer "down by the riverside". The baptizer first waded in to find a suitable place, pushing in a stick to mark the place. The applicant was then immersed according to Bible formula.

There were tears of joy and fond embraces on the shore of the river. Time seemed to stand still as eternity's values were "written with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever." The die was cast and there was no turning back. Happy hearts rejoiced with the angels in

heaven.

There is joy among the angels,
And their harps with gladness ring
When a sinner comes, repenting,
Bending low before the King.

Tiny water skaters, their thread-like knees
akimbo, came back to glide over the sacred
spot. Wild things resumed their daily
activities. Soon the last buggy left and there
was nothing to show we had been there but our
tracks on the shore.

In much appreciation,
James D. Cover
from "Michigan Memories"

OBITUARY

JAMES DAVID COVER was born September 28, 1898, and passed this life in Modesto, on March 7, 1994, at the age of 95 years, 5 months, and 7 days.

He was born to Joseph M. and Anna (Mohler) Cover at Covert, Michigan. He had one brother, Joseph, and five sisters, Orpha, Ruth, Alice, Ella, and Esther.

In 1908, the family moved to California and settled in the Blue Gum area in Modesto. On November 1, 1922, he was married to Elizabeth Wagner. They lived continually in the Modesto area and happily celebrated a 70th wedding anniversary in November of 1992.

He was engaged in farming in his early years and later became an employee of Modesto City Schools. He loved children and was active in children's work, both in Church and in Child Evangelism, for a number of years.

He was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth in 1993, his brother, Joseph, and three sisters, Orpha Barton, Alice Skiles, and Esther Wagner.

James is survived by his six children: Louise Buckley of Modesto; Joseph D. Cover of Baltimore, Maryland; Betty Thompson of Exeter, California; Robert J. Cover of Smithville, Ohio; Richard D. Cover of Northfield, Minnesota; Nancy Ames of Crestwood, Kentucky; two sisters: Ruth Barton, who will be 99 years of age this year, and Ella Wagoner, who is 90. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held March 12, 1994, at Salas Brothers Chapel in Modesto, and conducted by Pastor Joel Richards and Elder Leslie Cover. Interment was in the Wood Colony Cemetery.

The Family wishes to express their appreciation for all the love that has been shown them at this time.

--The Family

HOME DUTIES: THE DUTIES OF HUSBANDS
(CONTINUED)

CONFIDE IN YOUR WIFE.

Give her your confidence. Unbosom your heart to her. She is not a plaything, a mere ornament to your home. She is your helpmeet in all the affairs of life. Let there be no permanent secret between you and her. Tell her your plans and talk them over together. Let her know how your business is carried on and how you are prospering. Teach her how to transact business. It will be very useful to her in case of your death. You and she are one. You have one interest in life, and hence no diverse interests.

One reason why I have never joined any secret society, especially any of those that do

not admit women, is because I have never thought it right, or according to the true intent of my marriage vow, to spend fifty-two nights in the year, or even one night in fifty-two years, in a place where what is done and said must be forever kept a secret from her, between whom and myself there should be no permanent secret.

But what if the wife is not worthy of confidence?

I will answer that question when I speak of the duties of wives. It is certainly a sad state of things when husband and wife cannot, or do not, confide in each other. Take away mutual confidence and mutual love, and their union, though it be a legal one, is not a true union, so far as the true ideal of marriage is concerned.

COMFORT YOUR WIFE.

In many ways she will comfort you, and you should take pains to make the burdens and sufferings of life easier for her. Hannah, the mother of Samuel, had a model husband in this respect. Read I Samuel 1:8 and you will learn how he comforted his wife.

If you are unconfidential and unsympathetic, the trials and sufferings and afflictions of your wife will be much more severe and more difficult to bear. Your business trials are fully equaled by the trials which she has in the household. By sympathy and love you can bear one another's burdens and make them both lighter.

It may be that death will darken the threshold of your door and claim as his own one of the fair flowers that so sweetly blossomed in your home. Your grief will be great, but remember that she who bore the child, who brooded over it, who nourished it, who tended

and caressed it through many weary hours when you were absorbed in business, will have--if possible--a greater grief. Comfort her then. Kneel by her side in the agony of her grief. Be with her all the time that you can. You are absorbed in business or work through the day, and can easily forget your grief. She must remain all day at home, where, at every turn, she sees something to remind her of her loss and to stir up anew the fountain of her grief. Let your arm of love support her. Perhaps she has a Comforter whom you do not know, but even the divine Comforter, though not dependent upon, nevertheless often uses human love to comfort stricken hearts.

And when the bloom of youthful beauty has departed from the face of your wife, taken away by bearing your children and by caring faithfully for you and yours, when perchance she is laid on a bed of lingering sickness, then, of all earthly loves, yours should bring to her the most of comfort and of joy.

--by R.T.Cross from Home Duties, 1896-1899

BAPTISMS

We of the Salida Congregation were all happy and rejoiced with the angels when Laura Cover on March 13, and Lois Flora on March 17, chose to follow the Master and received Christian baptism. May they be faithful and helpful in God's kingdom. --Joseph L. Cover

MARRIAGE

CABLE--HUFFMAN Larry Cable and Liana Huffman were married March 5, 1994, in Bradford, Ohio.

Their address is: 8408 Little Richmond Rd.
Dayton, Ohio 45426
(513) 854-0160

March question for the Pilgrim:

What are the Scriptural reasons for not teaching the doctrine of "eternal security"? And a related question: Can someone be truly saved if he is living a very evil life?

--Martha Wagner

ANSWER:

On this subject study these scriptures: John 10:27-28; Romans 8:29-31; I Peter 1:5; II Peter 1:10; I John 3:9; Romans 7:15-25; 13-14; I Corinthians 5:1-5; 9:24; 10:12-13; II Corinthians 2:11; 11:3; Galatians 6:1; Colossians 3:5-6; Jude 24; Revelation 20:12-15; Matthew 27:3-5; Mark 14:66-72. There are probably other scriptures besides these, but this gives us a good start. We can say that we are secure in Christ, but we always must add an "if" because it is conditional upon how we walk; "if" we are faithful, "if" we are holy, "if we fight the good fight", etc. We must realize though, that it is conditional on man's part and not God's; it is man that disinherits his adoption through sin and dysfunctional faith.

--Ron Cable

ANSWER:

We must remember that this doctrine, which is better described as unconditional eternal security, has been debated in the church for centuries. We know that the scriptures teach consistently, and the differences of doctrine come from our failure to understand correctly. We certainly believe that we have security in Christ and for eternity when we are His obedient children. We also read that His mercy endureth forever. But when we rebel or take our own way and willingly fall into a sinful life, neither the Word of God nor any true Christian teacher will give us comfort or assurance. The second question is easier to answer. Jesus says, "A good tree cannot bring

forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Further scriptures + study are Romans 11:20-22; Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 6:4-9; 10:26-31; II Peter 3:17. --L.C.

FRUIT BEARING

God, wanting to bring us to His love and knowledge, declares that we need to trust Him, and that not until we can do this is He able to mold us into His likeness and virtues.

The scriptures have much to say about the blessings that follow those that trust Him. (Psalm 37:3-5, Matthew 11:28-30, 23:37)

One translation of Romans 3:31 says that only when we trust Jesus can we truly obey Him. To trust is a needed emotional part of our being. It is resting in and drawing from a security and support beyond our own capabilities. To trust, the mind has to experience a knowledge of a subject or being that has proven its worthiness of this respect.

There is no excuse for man not to trust God; for He has never failed us.

In like manner, we have been called to be trustworthy. Without this attribute it would be impossible to bear fruit that brings honor and glory to God. To have the respect of trust that enriches our fellowmen's lives, can only be had when we have a godly concern for their welfare, knowing that without this we would be unable to bless others.

Trust is one of the main pillars of strength and beauty in Christ's kingdom. It is a living testimony against the world's hell of mistrust.

We are often moved to thanksgiving for the blessings that come from trust in the community of believers. Trust in our fellow believers in seeking a life companion is a blessing the world can't experience. To be able to trust

one's companion in marriage produces homes that honor God.

We are blessed by God and others that are faithful in the ministry of trust. Now the challenge is--are we a blessing to our fellowmen, without favoritism, by being constant and dependable? Can we be counted on to have the good of others at heart, at the cost of our own personal liking or comfort?

When the ministry of trust is lost, the cause of Christ has ceased in our lives.

Are we looking to the perfect example of trust? (II Cor. 13:5)

--Kenneth Martin

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Old Brethren Church will be held this year, the Lord willing, on May 20, 21, and 22, at the meeting house near Wakarusa, Indiana. Friday will be council day; Saturday and Sunday (Pentecost) will be for public preaching; and Saturday evening will be for the Communion service. A hearty invitation is extended to all of our brethren, sisters, and friends to attend.

--Melvin Coning

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS: EXAMINE YOURSELVES

II Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" So we need to examine ourselves at times. Peter gives us an outline of things to study; II Peter 1:5-11. If we follow his advice, we can be sure we are going the right way.

--Ernest Wagner

CHILDREN'S PAGE: WHAT DOES YOUR LABEL SAY?

"Mother, can we have corn for supper?" asked seven year old Amos after their busy day.

"We sure can." said Mother. "Please get a package out of the freezer."

Amos got the package labeled "corn." Mother opened it, but instead of corn it was beans.

"But Mother," said Amos, "the label said corn. I do not like beans."

Mother said, "We have to eat them now. Daddy will soon be ready to eat. Someone put the wrong label on the package. Amos, this package reminds me of children. You want to be good. But it seems like you forget and are naughty at times. Someone may see you and remember you by the bad things you have done. This is putting a bad label on you."

Cain and Abel were the first children on the earth. When they were small, they were happy and played together like all children. As they got older, things began to change. The Lord was pleased with Abel. Cain didn't make the Lord happy. Cain realized this and he was jealous of Abel. When they were in the field working, Cain killed Abel. The Lord told Cain he would be labeled as a bad person everywhere he went.

Like the package of beans, the label says one thing but something else is in the package. Man can only see what is on the outside. Jesus knew there were beans in the package. We had to believe the label. If someone has labeled you wrong, Jesus knows you are trying to be good.

--Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

HOLY GHOST, WITH LIGHT DIVINE

Holy Ghost, with light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn my darkness into day.

Holy Ghost, with power divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
Long hath sin, without control,
Held dominion o'er my soul.

Holy Ghost, with joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Bid my many woes depart;
Heal my wounded, bleeding heart.

Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down every idol throne;
Reign supreme, and reign alone.

--Andrew Reed, 1787-1862

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PENTECOST

The giving of the Holy Spirit was God's final act in the plane of redemption. Atonement for sin had been made; Jesus' power in resurrection was demonstrated. Now the believers were to be filled and empowered to live lives for God and to carry their Gospel to "the uttermost part of the earth." That day the Church of Jesus Christ was born.

Pentecost is not a holiday on most calendars. The world hardly notices it; most people would not know when it is or what it means. But to God's people, what happened on Pentecost is of top significance. It was prophesied by Joel. Peter preached that day. About 3000 were added to the church and baptized.

Pentecost now means power in God's people. Without the power, we are only ordinary or less. With God's Spirit we are God's instruments. When Stephen preached and men of the synagogue disputed with him, "they were not able to resist the wisdom and spirit by which he spake." Paul who opposed Stephen later had this same power after he was converted.

Is Pentecost power still available to us today? Yes, we qualify if we are called of God. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 2:39) That promise is remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost when we repent and are baptized.

Read carefully the chapters of The Acts that follow. Do we want what Peter and John had?

They were imprisoned for telling what they knew about Jesus. We don't see much pleasure in their lives--at least the way the world defines pleasure. But they had Jesus, His Spirit and the hope of eternal life. They were not ready to give up their faith in any persecution or hardships. And neither will we. The promise is to us, "afar off" as we are. --L.C.

GODLY MOTHERS: REWARDS AHEAD

Mother--one of the dearest of the 600,000 English words. Most of us, hearing this word, form a picture in our minds of that special person who bore us, nourished and trained us, and loved us with unconditional and selfless love. Each year a day is set aside to remember that person so special.

Motherhood is a great privilege and also a grave responsibility. With our limited vision we sometimes wonder why God denied the privilege to some who seem so deserving and capable, and gave it to some so poorly qualified. Our purpose is not to question the infinite wisdom of God, but to appreciate our own good mothers and to encourage those who have this responsibility to give birth to children and, with their husbands, to rear them for the Lord. We also would recognize those faithful sisters who have no children of their own, but contribute so capably to helping care for children of others.

"A man's work is from sun to sun; a woman's work is never done." This saying hints of the magnitude of the task of motherhood. A word of warning: motherhood is not for the lazy, selfish, or pleasure-seeking. It is for the most skilled, the capable, the loving, the selfless, the strong in faith, those who walk with God. Though motherhood comes as such a natural state

to many, it should not be entered into lightly. It is a challenge to the strongest.

Perhaps because of the greatness of the tasks, this caring for children can be discouraging business. I write, of course, as an observer, but one who is close, first as a son, then husband, and then father of mothers. There is a great need in our society for diligent mothers. Those who realize this, can easily despair at their own seeming failures. But those who try and sometimes fail are not the real problem. Many children in our time are simply allowed to grow up without direction. Oh, yes, they are being trained. All are being trained, but some without caring parents are brought up by TV, the neighbors, the school, or the movies. Children with good Christian parents should indeed be thankful.

Like any other profession, motherhood can be studied and improved. Good advice can come from Christian sisters who have reared their own children. There are good books and especially the inspiring Word of God to study. Beware of child training literature that ignores or even contradicts the unfailing principles in the Bible.

One of our daughters who is a busy mother takes comfort from the third verse of the hymn "Seedtime and Harvest":

Though life may appear as a cold barren waste,
And comes no return of the bread you have cast
Contribute to do loving deeds as you go;
The harvest is nearing--"We reap what we sow."

To all sincere Godly mothers, overworked though you may be, there is rest and reward ahead. Children disciplined to obey on the first command grow to be obedient in other areas: the government, the school, the Church

of God. Those taught to be on time and to be neat and clean will make you happy as they grow this way as adults. The children from a loving home with regular mealtime, Bible reading and memorizing, and routine jobs or chores will be able to handle the small, sometimes monotonous demands of life and make good marriage partners, good citizens, and good servants of God. As you patiently direct the habits of your children, God will compensate for all your labors by showing good fruit in their lives. Galatians 6:9: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Henry Ward Beecher said, "A mother has perhaps the hardest earthly lot; and yet no mother worthy of the name ever gave herself thoroughly for her child who did not feel that, after all, she reaped what she had sown."

May all you dear mothers that sow in tears, also reap in joy. (Psalm 126:5) May your labors be repaid one hundred fold as you see your children choose the right and follow the Lord. And to you children, there is a saying, "Don't let your parents down; they brought you up."

--L.C.

A FREE GIFT?

I hear so much talk these days about a free gift. The gift, they say, is salvation. Is salvation really free? Romans 3:24: "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." What this is saying is that we have free access to the forgiveness of our sins. This is not saying you can just accept Christ and go on your same old path. I imagine most of you agree with me. However, does your life show it? I hear so many times that we are not saved by works, and that's true. However, works will condemn you.

I don't care how much you believe in God or how strong your faith is, if you sin and don't seek forgiveness, you're lost. Look at Moses leading the children of Israel to the Promised Land. God told him to speak to the rock, but he smote it. Because of this he could not enter into the Promised Land.

Second, let's look at the parable of the talents. (Matthew 25:14-30) We can see here that two of the servants gained more talents, but the one hid his talent. This made the master very wroth and he cast the servant into outer darkness. Christ does expect us to grow spiritually and to bring others to Him. We can't just sit down and do nothing.

Third, let's look at Matthew 18:7: "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" This is a very sobering verse. In verse 6 it says that it were better for us to be drowned than to offend someone who is new or weak in the faith. Let's build up the weak in faith and encourage the new in faith to study God's Word and be strong.

So in conclusion, I will agree that God's saving grace is free, but the road after we receive it can be trying and sometimes right down hard. I think it's dangerous to tell someone that all they need to do is ask God to forgive them and they're saved. Even though Moses had faith they would make it to the Promised Land, he wasn't allowed to go in because of disobedience. So, whether you sit on the last row of benches or are the minister, you must have a strong faith, ask forgiveness, and keep the commandments and ordinances of God. Failing in these areas will lead you to eternal damnation.

--Arlan Wray
Pomona, Kansas

(We agree with Brother Arlan in the preceding article, but want to be understood. The freedom of the grace wherein we stand was costly to the Saviour. It will cost us our wills. God is merciful but we must seek His mercy. It is true as Matthew Henry comments, "We add no part to the price of our redemption.") -Ed.

THE MYSTERY

Love, joy, understanding, miracles and forgiveness of sin.

A new kind of life, a new Kingdom to win.

Fishermen, tax collectors, old men, proud and meek.

Eating meat with the outcast, greater than the strongest, humble with the weak.

Physical Man with sorrow, hunger, thirst and weary frame.

God-man with power, unlimited wisdom and Holy name.

A virgin His mother, His Father the Creator of heaven and earth.

Teacher, Philosopher, Prophet, ordained Savior from birth.

Arrested, trial, false accusations, half truths, mob rule reigns.

Beaten, ridiculed, inhuman treatment, suffering pains.

Asked to deny His Sonship to the one true God of all,

He speaks words of love and patience, not one vile name does call.

Darkness, seeming defeat, nail-pierced hands, blood pouring from His side.

Punishment of thieves, friends hang their heads in shame and hide.

God's plan for man's salvation, reaching from time past to time to come.

There is no other name in Heaven or Earth man can seek forgiveness from.

Brightness, victory, empty tomb, our resurrected Lord!

An unusual appearance before disciples, hope restored.

Ascension to Heaven, gift of the Holy Spirit, first Church ordained.

Despite persecution, destruction, and martyrs, many souls gained. --James Hite

Palmyra, Pennsylvania

CERTIFIED BRETHREN, PART II

"I know thy works...and faith..."

That was Jesus speaking, to the church in Thyatira. But He says more: "I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first." (Rev. 2:19) These brethren were growing in their works, increasing the evidence of their faith through their love, service, and patience. Truly they were showing their faith by their works. But we come to Christ by faith.

Paul declares to the Romans, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (5:1) Because of what Jesus did for us, we obtain peace with God from our right standing with God by our faith.

Now, jumping to Galatians 5:4, Paul tells us that Christ has had no effect on us if we attempt to be justified by anything else other than faith in God and if we do try, we are fallen from grace. He also told the Roman brethren that "...a man is justified by faith

without the deeds of the law." (3:28) We need to realize that Paul is stressing faith in order to counter-balance the works of the law teaching. We need to realize also that Paul is referring to the Jewish law here, which they were regressing back into.

Is Paul saying that works have no place in the Christian's life? Shall we just conclude with one writer that it is hopelessly obscure? "Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be...! Having been freed from sin, you become slaves of righteousness." (Rom. 6:15,18 NASB)

In his closing chapter to the Galatians, he makes some statements that balance things: "Let every man prove his own work ... And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (6:4,9) Faith is not passive, it is active and living; "...if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." (James 2:17) "My brothers, what good is there in a man's saying that he has faith, if he has no good deeds to prove it? Such faith cannot save him, can it?" (James 2:14, Williams)

Jesus himself told the Jews, "...the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me." (John 10:25) Works witness! How simple! How could we think otherwise? But notice that it is in "my Father's name"; works must be accompanied by the witness of the Spirit. (I John 5:10)

In Hebrews we find more evidence for works: "Let us continue so to consider one another as to stimulate one another to love and good deeds." (10:24, Williams) "After ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (eternal life) (v. 36b)

In Colossians Paul instructs them to "...walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,

being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (1:10)

So, what saves us, faith or works? Christ told the Centurion, "...Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." (Mt. 8:13b) "...And Jesus, seeing their faith..." (Mt. 9:2) Jesus saw their faith because they came to Him believing that He could heal them, and He did. There are many examples of this; another of the woman who touched the border of His garment and was healed, and Jesus told her, "...be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace." (Lk. 8:48) How did He see their faith? They came to Him believing! They sought Him earnestly!

Some came to Him; some touched Him; some were touched by Him; some said nothing; some called Him Lord. All were a result of simple faith, belief, trust in His Lordship, that He was truly the Son of God and could save them.

We can see then, that faith "makes us whole"; that "...the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (II Tim. 3:15) See also Rom. 10:9; I Cor. 1:21; 15:2.

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves His child. This is how we can be sure that we love the children of God, by continuing to love God and to obey His com-
mands. For love to God means this, to practise obedience to His commands, and His commands are not burdensome, for every child continues to conquer the world. Our faith is the victory that has conquered the world. Now who is it that continues to conquer the world, if it is not the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I John 5:1-5, Williams)

Now if faith is victory, this indicates much action in faith; and if it has conquered the

world then it is action empowered by the Holy Spirit and not of man.

Therefore Paul certifies the Galatian brethren, "For in union with Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor lack of it counts for anything; but only faith that is spurred on to action by love." (Gal. 5:5, Williams) That describes it so well! Spurs gouge us in our sides (where Jesus was pierced); causing a reflex of jumping forward, action, rearing to go! Reflexes are instantaneous in a healthy, normal nervous system, thus the great difficulty in separating faith and works; two entities that occur in split-second succession, by love. However, any works that we attempt to do for the purpose of justification in any way will come to nought, if it is for selfish reasons. The Pharisees were such people, but "we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." (Gal. 5:5) We live in the Spiritual realm, the kingdom "not made with hands." What is the "hope of righteousness"? Eternal life with Christ and all His saints!

(to be continued)

--Ron Cable
Goshen, Indiana

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Lord, give me patience when wee hands
Tug at me with their small demands.
Give me gentle and smiling eyes;
Keep my lips from hasty replies.
Let not weariness, confusion, or noise
Obscure my vision of life's fleeting joys.
So, when in years to come, my house is still--
No bitter memories its rooms may fill. Amen.

--Author Unknown
Selected by Everett Oyler

THE PILGRIM
UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS:
TWO BAPTISMS

John the Baptist said: Matthew 3:11: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:" Jesus said, "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore, and repent." Despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him. Let Him make us as He wills.

PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY

Ecclesiastes 7:14: "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him." The present age of industrial development has left a great amount of waste to be disposed of, which is contaminating water, air, and soil. When God created the earth, He made provision to handle all this by evaporation and rain to take impurities out of water and air. So we wonder when it will be necessary to dissolve this earth and make all things new. --Ernest Wagner

BIRTH

TAYLOR -- A son, David Baker Taylor, born April 16, to Bart and Annalee Taylor of Tuolumne.

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To bring worship, praise, and honor to our heavenly Father is the desire of all believers. This is a Biblical requirement and should be a spontaneous result of knowing Him.

We can manifest this in different ways. Modern Christianity is claiming this in a new dimension and is causing many to believe that excellence in demonstration of words and emotion in worship, is what makes us righteous and acceptable to God.

Jesus declared to the woman at the well--God is seeking true worshipers--worship that comes from personal knowledge and relationship with the One being worshiped.

The Scriptures tell of men that were moved to worship in many different settings and experiences--from a natural victory (Ex 15:1), to the losing of all that a man had. (Job 1:20)

Israel desired and claimed to be God's only people. They claimed this through proper worship in their precise, regulated ceremonies. God's response was that He couldn't tolerate it. It was a stench in His nostrils, because it lacked spiritual discernment of a life that honored the One being worshiped.

The only valid proof in us of God's sovereignty is the overcoming life--a life that is bearing spiritual fruit--in righteousness, peace, and holiness reproving the world in its moral rot and decay. Where the overcoming life is not manifested, we have no legitimate worship and praise to bring to Him.

True worship comes from a total trust and commitment to the One being worshiped.

This is how Christians can be thankful in all things and why they can worship in loss and disappointment. Circumstances aren't what determine true worship.

True worship manifests power that Satan hasn't been able to overcome. It is what makes Satan flee. (Matthew 4:10,11)

--Kenneth Martin

BIBLE STUDY: ROMANS 3

In the third chapter of Romans, the Apostle Paul explains that true righteousness comes through faith in God and not through the deeds of the law. He begins by establishing the absolute righteousness of God. Paul then goes on to describe the unrighteousness of man and explains the role that the law has in making us conscious of our own sin. He briefly tells about the salvation that is now available through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. The chapter ends with the conclusion that man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in God.

The first seven verses of the third chapter of Romans speak of the faithfulness of God. Paul first explains that the Jews have an advantage over the Gentiles because they have been entrusted with the "oracles of God" (God's Word). He then establishes the fact that God's righteousness does not depend upon whether men believe His Word or not. Paul makes it very clear that it is not the evil deeds of men that make the righteousness of God manifest. It seems that Paul may have been misquoted as saying "Let us do evil, that good may come." or some similar statement. In the seventh and eighth verses he forcefully refutes this.

In the ninth verse Paul establishes the universal unrighteousness of man, both Jew and Gentile. Beginning in the tenth verse, He quotes from seven Old Testament passages that demonstrate the unrighteousness of man. In the

twentieth verse he concludes that "...by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his (God's) sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

The remaining verses of the chapter give the solution to man's problem. Paul states that the righteousness of God is now available to all that believe, regardless of whether they are Jew or Gentile. He also makes clear that this righteousness comes by faith in Jesus Christ and not by the deeds of the law. The Apostle Paul concludes that the law has not been "made void" or nullified by faith but has been established by faith.

It must be made clear that although we as Christians are not subject to the law of Moses, we are subject to law--the law of the gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ goes farther than the original law ever did. The gospel addresses our motives and internal desires rather than focusing on external ordinances and actions. This ought to instill in us a desire to learn more about God and the work of Jesus Christ by diligently studying His Word, the Bible.

--Edward Wagner

Of many things my mother did
I'd often question why.
Then she would turn and look at me
And with a smile reply,
"I have a reason."

We're all small children in God's sight;
We question, but we know He's right
And has a reason.

We'll never understand it all,
Why ills sometimes to us befall,
But there's a reason.

--J.G. Hootman

CHILDREN'S PAGE: GIVE MOTHER YOUR BEST GIFT

This time of year we see nature coming to life. The ground is made ready to plant the seed. Soon we see the small green shoots of corn beginning to grow. Nature then takes over. The corn develops to a mature stalk and produces good seed. God controls the rain and sunshine to make the small blade of corn grow.

We compare the small blades of corn to the new born babies. A mother must provide a suitable place for her little ones to grow. Her wishes for her little ones are like the corn in the field. She wants the children to mature and produce good fruit. God controls your Mother. How thankful you should be. What would it be like if Mother wouldn't love and take care of you?

While walking in the woods, a small child said, "Take me where the flowers are." We found the flowers. Children, I can tell you where you can find a flower more precious than the ones in the woods. Look at your Mother and you have found the "Special Flower."

Do you want to give your Mother something special for Mother's Day? Hug her and tell her you will try to be an obedient child. Then she can enjoy this special present all year.

When you obey Mother, you make her labors in life a lot easier. I trust you can all do this. God bless all you children.

--Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

FOR FATHERS

A FAMILY FOLLOWS ME

A careful man I want to be:
For my family follows me.
I do not dare to go astray
For fear they'll go the selfsame way.

I cannot once escape their eyes;
Whate'er they see me do they try;
Like me they say they're going to be--
For my family follows me.

They think that I am good and fine;
Believe in every word of mine.
The bad in me they must not see--
For my family follows me.

I must remember as I go,
Through summers's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be
For my family follows me.

--Author unknown
adapted by Shirley Byler
from A Woman By God's Grace

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RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

He didn't ask to be born. His life had not been pleasant. His parents had given him many luxurious things that money could buy. They had let him choose his own clothes. He had his distinct likes and dislikes in food. He had friends. But somehow all these had not made him happy. Now he was in trouble with the law. The police had caught him and his comrades in a robbery. Oh no, they didn't need the things they stole, but it looked exciting. In the arrest the officer read to them their rights according to the law.

Rights! Everybody has rights, or so they claim. Do children have rights? Were there some things this boy missed out on that he really needed and had a right to have? Who failed? Whose fault was it that he was now in trouble? Where does one find happiness? Do children need to be bored--dissatisfied looking for something more thrilling? What rights are there that, if given to children, will make happy and useful Christian youth?

Children have a right to be loved--loved enough to be disciplined. All too often we see parents in public treating their children like untrained dogs. Loving, consistent discipline works. Shouting and giving children a countdown doesn't. The children are blessed that have persistent parents that can use "the rod" when they are naughty, and then comfort the child in their arms, assuring him he is loved and precious. The writer of Proverbs tells us that if you beat your child with the rod (This sounds severe, but does not mean abuse.) he shall not die,

but you will deliver his soul from hell. (Proverbs 23:13,14) Obey the words of James where he says..."let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay..."

Children have a right to a true example. This challenges us older ones, because we know we are not always perfect examples. But if children are expected to "Obey (their) parents in the Lord," then they have a right to godly parents giving fair, cheerful instructions to obey. They have a right to parents who are stable and consistent, teaching their children order and giving them routine chores and regular mealtime. "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Children have a right to absolute honesty and to know the truth. "Thy word is truth." One outstanding advantage of the Christian schools is the opportunity to teach every subject in relation to God's Word. Children have a right to know the truth of Creation and of God's directing of all of human history. God made the laws of gravity, inertia, and friction. He set the rules of mathematics and knows the answer to every question.

Those with only an earthly outlook maintain children have a right to clean air, pure water, and undepleted resources. But clean air will not help children if their atmosphere is polluted by swear words, dirty jokes, immodest clothing, idleness and extravagance. Clean water will not replace the pure Word of God. All the resources of the earth are not worth "the pearl of great price" which is a place in God's family with the resources of His grace and mercy.

Should a child or young person be required to do work he does not enjoy? Hoeing weeds in the garden is not exactly fun. Neither is picking up toys, doing dishes, or sweeping out the car. But a child has a right to be taught a wholesome attitude toward work. There are satisfying rewards for honest labor that go beyond the work itself such as responsibility, contentment, usefulness, and submission. One young man told some children who were unwilling workers, "You eat here, don't you?"

Many children are forced to make choices they are unqualified for--what to wear, what to eat, who their friends will be. Some must even choose which parent they will live with. Children have a right to have difficult decisions made for them. It is one of the duties of parents.

Jesus gave children as an example of the kingdom of God. But it was not today's boldness He was commending. Respectful children are appreciated by all around them and welcome even in retail stores.

Children have a right to be taught proper manners, to say "Please" and "Thank-you." They have a right to be kept clean and be taught personal hygiene--"Wash your hands." "Brush your teeth." They have a right to good music, and to be encouraged to memorize Christian songs and precious Bible verses. They should be given an appreciation of the beauties of nature, an example of kindness to the elderly and of reaching out to the needy. Children given these rights will not be in the hands of the police, a liability to society, but will be bright stars in God's glorious future. --L.C.

CERTIFIED BRETHREN (CONTINUED)

CONSIDER THE SOURCE AND THE RECIPIENTS!

Some believe that the discrepancy between Paul and James is vivid and irreconcilable; even obscure. Some believe that Paul does not teach works at all; that he teaches faith alone--only believe. But we have seen that this is not true; that if we really study his writings with an open mind, we do find the teaching of works through faith. Likewise, James teaches works through faith. "My dear short-sighted man, can't you see far enough to realize that faith without the right actions is dead and useless? Think of Abraham, our ancestor. Wasn't it his action which really justified him in God's sight when his faith and his actions were, so to speak, partners--that his faith was implemented by his deed?" (James 2:20-22, Philip) In Romans 4:2 Paul states, "...if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God." They do seem to differ on justification by works or faith, though Paul states elsewhere that "...it is God that justifieth." (Rom. 8:33) The point is; Paul was exhorting against the dead works brethren. James was exhorting against the dead faith brethren. They were both teaching to an extreme to bring back in balance the imbalances. We need to stand back and look at the whole picture of our study, not just two or three verses. Consider who is writing and consider whom he is writing to.

Another point to observe here is that Paul is teaching about access to salvation. (Rom. 10:10; 1:16; II Cor. 7:9-11; II Tim. 3:15) We cannot earn our salvation by works in any way. Christ has done the "works" part of our salvation, and what a great work it was! Our

part is to believe, have faith, trust, repent, receive the gift of God, renew our mind! It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit in us that any good thing occurs. (Rom. 7:18)

"ADD TO YOUR FAITH"

This is Peter's instruction, implying that we begin with faith and then build from there on. It is like building a house; the foundation is mostly hidden under the earth while supporting the whole structure of the house built on it. We can't see faith, yet faith is the evidence of things unseen because the whole Christian structure is built on it, so the structure is the substance of the good foundation: faith. (Hebrews 11:1) A seed illustrates more exactly this aspect: The substance of the seed is seen only after it is planted, watered and cultivated; the resulting substance of the seed is seen in the structure of the plant. Faith is the seed, the plant is the works.

We can say then, faith supports works; works being the structure, faith the foundation. Faith is seen only through the works, actually making works the evidence of the faith. If we try to build without the foundation of faith, the structure of works will ultimately collapse. Likewise, without the structure of works the foundation of faith will lie there unseen, without structure, supporting nothing.

Now, what do we add? What are the works? "...Virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity." (II Peter 1:5-7) Note in verse 8 that these increase our knowledge of Christ! "...Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Gal. 5:22-23)

Jesus also describes the result of faith in Mat.5:3-12; Luke 6:20-26. John F. MacArthur, Jr. in his excellent book The Gospel According to Jesus, says of these beatitudes: "Its foundational characteristic is humility --a poverty of spirit, a brokenness that acknowledges spiritual bankruptcy. Genuine believers see themselves as sinners; then know they have nothing to offer God that will buy His favor. This is why they mourn (Mat. 5:4) with sorrow that accompanies true repentance. It crushes the believer into meekness (v.5); he hungers and thirsts for righteousness (v.6). As the Lord satisfies that hunger, He makes the believing one merciful (v.6), pure in heart (v.7) and a peacemaker (v.9). The believer is ultimately persecuted and reviled for righteousness sake. (v.10)

"That is Jesus' description of true faith. It starts with humility and reaches fruition in obedience. The obedience true faith produces is more than external; it is an obedience that issues from the heart. ...This kind of righteousness does not merely avoid acts of adultery; it goes so far as to avoid adulterous thoughts. It eschews hatred the same as murder." (Zondervan: Grands Rapids, 1988. p.177)

So we see the Christian has much fruit to bear from the heart, but it is only born by the seed of faith through the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (Rev. 20:12,13) "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the

love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." (Jude 20,21) --Ron Cable,
Goshen, Indiana

WHAT IS SALVATION?

Tell me about when you were saved.

Well...I knew that it was important to be baptized, and as my friends were baptized one by one, I kept thinking I should be too, but I was scared! I finally got up enough courage to say I wanted to be, too!

Okay. Go on.

Go on?...Uh...well, I realized what the Bible said you should do, about the prayer covering, about dressing modestly, though it was quite a change having to wear the uniform!

...Uh...I tried not to do anything bad. I tried to be obedient, not wear makeup, not listen to bad music, or watch bad things or go anywhere bad. I tried to break bad habits, and be gentle and meek and friendly and...Well, what do you want?

I want you to tell me what salvation is. The things you mentioned certainly have their place, but they are, or should be results of salvation. But as the song says-

You can do all of the right things
But for the wrong reasons.
You can say all of the right things,
And still not change your heart.
There's got to be a change.
You've got to be made new.
You've got to die to yourself
To get the change in you.

Do you have time for a story? I know you've read it, and you've heard it read many times, but I'm not sure you've ever really understood it. So listen carefully.

In the beginning God decided to create something beautiful. He created an awesome universe, covering unfathomable space. He created galaxies, each one a vast group of distantly spaced stars. He made planets, much smaller than the stars. The planets, at least the ones we know, circle a rather small star we call the sun. One of the planets is called earth. On earth, God created plants and animals. They were mere specks of dust, when compared to the earth, not to mention the universe. But the plants and animals, without a will, did what God made them do. God wanted something, someone, who would obey Him because they loved Him. So He made man, tiny specks of dust on a speck of dust called earth--and He loved them!

He asked them to love Him enough to obey Him, and not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

But man, His beloved creation, disobeyed Him! Then He made them leave the lovely spot He had made for them, lest they should eat of the tree of life, and live for ever in such a state. For you see, God is a just God, and man deserved to die. If man should live for ever in such a state, how miserable would that existence be? And how could God rejoice in His creation?

Well, someone perfect would have to die, or all would die. But who is perfect except God? So God's Son died for us! He came in the form of a man, suffered from the temptations we suffered, but never sinned. Then He shed His blood, at our hands, for our sins! Those He loved so much, crucified Him! Yet He loved them! He rose from the dead, and still loved them! He still loves...us.

Now we must once again make a decision. Will we love Him in return, as He so richly deserves? As He so greatly desires? Will He

weep in pain again, as He sends you away from His presence, because you never accepted His gift of eternal life with Him?

What more can I say?

What more can I do?

I gave my life away

To show my love for you!

Once you were a slave,

But now you've been set free!

Do you still choose to wear the chains

That I died to release?

'Twasn't for nothing that I died!

'Twasn't for nothing that I cried!

'Twasn't for nothing that I bled upon
that tree?

You are the reason, my friend,

And I would do it all again,

Just to bring another lost soul unto me.

If you have realized what He has done for you, and how impossible it is to return that love, and your heart is broken because you have broken His, and you love Him because He loves you, and you desperately want to serve Him in any way possible, no matter how hard or insignificant that serving is, not to pay Him back, but just because you love Him, then, friend, you know what salvation is! And how could anyone turn their backs on such a God?!

--Martha Wagner

Gettysburg, Ohio

BAPTISM

On April 24, we were happy to have Nina Byers unite with us by Christian baptism upon the confession of her faith in Jesus. May she ever be true to the One who brought life and salvation to all who will faithfully serve Him.

--Melvin Coning

BEARING FRUIT

In the apostle Paul's defense of the proof of his apostleship, he said, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders and mighty deeds."

But the proof that should have convinced those who were doubting his office should have been this: "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." II Cor. 2:14-17

Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart. And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." II Cor. 3:1-6.

What the apostle is saying to those who were trying to gain the pre-eminence over

him, and were claiming to be more excellent than he, was that if the pedigrees of men would determine this proof, he could outdo them all, but the seal of an apostle is in fruit-bearing--"By their fruits ye shall know them."

When the word comes alive in the heart of a man, it is usually the result of a living testimony of Jesus observed in our fellowmen.

What a privilege we have to dwell in Godly homes and be a part of a spiritual community that reminds us daily of the life of our Savior.

To be a living testimony of Jesus that wins men to truth is the most noble act of a man.

--Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATION

RECREATION

Man was created with an intelligent sense to respond to God's love and care. When man refuses and turns away from God, it leaves a feeling of an unfilled need, which causes man to seek to fill by other reasons as idols, false gods, drinking, smoking, recreation, lust of the eyes, etc. This is becoming a great problem today, including drugs to try to ease the conscience. The love of money and the comfort of riches, is also a great evil.

--Ernest Wagner

COST AND RETURN

What will it cost to follow Christ?
The timid soul will ask.
What must I pay? How is it priced?
If I would do His task.

What all is there I must lay down,
So I'll escape from hell?
So that at last I'll get a crown,
With me all will be well.

How sad it is to thus start out,
And concentrate on loss.
That we should sit and look about,
And value place on dross.

Oh! Can't we grasp that earthly things
Will soon all flee away?
True treasure God can only bring
To those who live His way.

Oh may we look to Christ, and then
See dimly there at least,
The great free gift from God to men
His everlasting feast.

So many lasting treasures there
Our hearts can't comprehend;
He has prepared things good and fair
And joys that ne'er shall end.

Come let us cast the dross away
And gladly yield to Him.
Solid treasure He'll give today
And heaven we'll enter in.

--James Beery
Nappanee, Indiana

YOUTH PAGE: WE'VE PROMISED TO BE FAITHFUL

We've promised to be faithful! Do you recall the day,

When in baptismal waters you promised to obey?

That solemn, sacred covenant with God and Christ His Son,

Was that you would be faithful, till death would call you home.

We've promised to be faithful! And we can rest assured,

That Christ will never fail us--He always keeps His Word.

His promises forever will stand and not decay,

Though all of earth and heaven be destroyed and pass away.

We've promised to be faithful! Since Christ fulfills His Word,

Should we not also daily keep this promise to our Lord?

Our vows were heard in heaven our names were written down;

Oh, will they in the Judgment Day still in God's Book be found?

We've promised to be faithful! Then let us never shirk

This serious commitment--He needs us all to work!

To labor in His vineyard, be watchful unto prayer,

To have a love for others, salvation news to share.

We've promised to be faithful! Can those
who come behind,

Consistent, true examples in us as
Christians find?

Are we a light that's shining, and
burning clear and bright,

That others, who observing, will see
Christ's very light?

We've promised to be faithful! When Jesus
does return,

Then will He find a people who for His
coming yearn?

May we be in that number!-oh friend, do
not delay,

To make His great salvation your blessed
choice today!

We've promised to be faithful! The Lord
rewards His own,

For He that overcometh will be seated near
His throne;

Be clothed in pure white raiment, possess
a crown of life

Will know a peace eternal, untouched by
earthly strife.

We've promised to be faithful! Oh, what a
charge to keep!

May Jesus find us faithful, not lazy and
asleep.

Yes, through His grace and mercy, His
everlasting love,

He'll give us strength for service, 'till
we are called above.

--Rhoda Coning
Goshen, Indiana

CHILDREN'S PAGE

WHEN CHILDREN EAT

A little pig will squeal and squeal
 When it is hungry for a meal.
It does not bow its head and pray,
 For food that comes to it each day.
It gobbles down its food too fast,
 Then settles in the mud at last.

Now listen, dears, and you will know,
 That children never should act so.
They should not whine, nor should they squeal
 When they are hungry for a meal.
With patience they should wait for meals,
 And sing, instead of giving squeals.

And they should pray before they eat
 To thank the Lord for bread and meat.
Please, do not gobble down your food,
 But eat like little children should.

--Margaret Horst Yoder
 from Poems For Memorization

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

UNDER AN EASTERN SKY

Under an eastern sky,
Amid a rabble's cry...
A Man went forth to die,...
For me, for me.

Thorn crowned His blessed head,
Bloodstained His every tread;
Cross laden, on He sped,...
For me, for me.

Pierced His hands and feet,
Three hours o'er Him beat
Fierce rays of noon-tide heat,...
For me, for me.

Thus wert Thou made all mine;
Lord, make me wholly Thine;
Grant grace and strength divine...
To me, to me.

In thought and word and deed,
Thy will to do, O lead
My soul, e'en though it bleed...
To Thee, to Thee.

--John Long

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GOD'S WORD--VITAL TO MAN

Some call it fiction; some call it man's imagination; some regard it as great literature. In a religious paper, an opposer was quoted as saying, "You are crazy to believe in God. God doesn't exist. The Bible is absurd." But believers know that the Bible is the Word of God that will not pass away, even when all we see around us is gone.

God's Word is the vital link between God and His creation. Jesus is called the Word in John 1. When we believe this we can see that through God's Word, written and incarnate, He has chosen to reveal Himself to man. To only a very few has God shown Himself in any other way.

Because God's Word is such a vital link to man, Satan has taken every means to discredit it (and Him). Critics have tried to point out errors and contradictions. God raises up those who can answer them. Through ungodly rulers, Satan has tried to eliminate it by making it illegal to own a Bible. Brave believers died for this, and God protected His Word. Possibly even more sinister is the attitude today by many: that God's Word is great literature, but not necessarily true--that it cannot stand against the theories of science. Again God will protect His Word and reward any who simply believe what He says.

I have noticed that every person of normal intelligence has some creed or system of thinking. It will either harmonize with God's Word or tell the place of it as authority to the one who believes it. That is, we will either be instructed by the Word of God, or we will find some philosophy to replace it.

The philosophers of the past made one mistake, as I see it. And we can make the same mistake if we are not careful. They

did not start with God's Word. Some of them perhaps had no access to it. In starting at something else in their reasoning they could not arrive at truth. Some reasoned about what is good and valuable. Some saw the word and concluded that God must exist but apparently had no present interest in creation. Some speculate about reality and what it means to exist. Some seek for truth but cannot find it. What is freedom? What is right or wrong? And on and on. Without the solid foundation of the Word of God, there can only be questions with no certain answers.

To believers, God's Word is true. Jesus tells us this, "Thy word is truth." It stands alone as the standard of truth; every book, writing, or statement must be measured by the Word to determine its value. If it is contradictory to God's Word, it is wrong. If it explores into areas unrevealed in God's Word, it still must not contradict it.

To believers, God's Word is a guide. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." As a traveller needs a map, so a Christian needs God's Word. Our life is a journey made up of many steps. The U.S. Constitution, the Magna Carta, or even the decisions of Christians of the past simply will not replace the Word of God as our guide book.

To believers, God's Word is food. Job said, "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Jesus (the Word) tells us we must eat His flesh and drink His blood. It is vital that we partake of Christ to live. With this in mind, is it right to eat three meals a day and snacks in between and then have only a chapter or two of God's Word for daily spiritual food? When Satan tried to tempt Jesus to make bread out of stones, Jesus quoted to him, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." It is still true in our day.

Jeremiah 23:29 says, "Is not my word like a fire? saith

the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" In comparing God's Word to fire, perhaps the picture is to overcome error, lies, or heresies. When we think of the Word like a hammer, we realize it can break hard hearts.

God's Word shows us His nature--what He is like. We need not wonder about God when He has spoken to us. It is sad to hear people blame Him when things do not go their way. Even some believers sometimes say they are angry at God or that He didn't understand their needs. God's Word reveals to us that He never makes mistakes. He may allow things that are not His will, such as people sinning or being lost. He allowed Satan to afflict Job. But He is always in control. Satan could go only as far as God allowed.

God's Word is quick, powerful, and sharp. (Hebrews 4:12) Peter calls it "sincere milk" that we should desire as newborn babes. What a picture! Babies cannot live and grow without milk. Jesus says that those who reject Him will be judged by His Word in the last day. (John 12:8)

This precious Word is to be sown in the world. When it finds good and honest hearts, it takes root like grain and produces a bountiful harvest.

What a privilege we have to be able to read and understand God's Word! Today we learn to read and write to be able to communicate in the world. To learn to read God's Word seems almost a sideline. However, at times in the past Christians taught their children to read for the very purpose of reading the Bible.

May we never forget the priceless treasure we have in God's Word. Read it to know God's will. Feed on it. Let it order our lives.

Jeremiah 15:16: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."--L.C.

"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion..." Amos 6:1

Can we afford to dwell at ease in a world bound for destruction, a world that crucified our Lord? We live on a doomed planet; the end of all things is at hand. We see death in everything in this world because of sin. But Jesus, the living Word, was made flesh and died for us; therefore we have hope. Isaiah 58:6,7 reveals the fast with the Lord's blessing. "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" This should be taken very seriously. We have the wonderful privilege and responsibility of ministering to the King of Glory, the One who has been given all power in heaven and in earth. We dwell in a land where there is much need. Every soul is a potential believer, because the Word of God says "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." The power is the Lord's, but we are His hands and feet; we are the ministering body. Jesus is hungry. Are we feeding Him? He is thirsty. Are we giving Him drink? He is a stranger. Are we clothing Him? He is sick, and in prison. Are we visiting Him? If we really love Him, we are willing to lose our lives for His sake. "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward (or protection)." There is a fine line between the righteous and the wicked. The righteous are living for God; the wicked are living for self. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." How can we dwell at ease on a battlefield? A war is being waged. The souls of man are at-

stake. The victory was won at Calvary; the armor has been provided. We have been given the power through our Captain Jesus, not only to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, but to go into enemy territory and bring out souls for the Master.

--Kevin Garber

Twain Harte, California

BONES BROKEN BY GOD

Sheep are prone to wander, but what can a shepherd do when he has a lamb that is especially quick to stray? He must frequently search for it, putting the other sheep in some added danger. Besides, sooner or later, this lamb will be seriously injured, killed by a wild animal, or become so lost as to starve to death before it is found. The shepherd does not want this to happen. Each of his sheep is very valuable to him. Besides he loves them.

Sometimes love seems cruel. Have you ever heard of an instance when a person in danger of drowning had to be knocked out to be rescued? Did you receive severe punishment from your parents? Was it cruelty or love?

There is a way for the shepherd to teach the lamb to stay close by, but the shepherd must love the lamb enough to hurt it. You see, shepherds used to sometimes break the leg of such a lamb, so it could not stray. Then the shepherd would carry the lamb wherever he would go, being gentle and caring. By the time the leg would heal, the lamb would usually have become dependent on the shepherd, and would stay even closer to the shepherd than the rest of the sheep!

In verse 8 of Psalm 51, David said, "Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice." You now know what he referred to here. Remember David was a shepherd, before he was a king.

David committed adultery and murder. Because of this, he suffered great humiliation as well as the loss of his son. Did David hate God for this seemingly cruel punishment? No! He loved Him all the more! For you see, David became more aware of how much he depended upon God. And God forgave him, even for that great sin.

In Psalm 94:12-13a, it says, "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law; That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity..." When God "breaks our bones" He gives us rest!

In Revelation 3:19 He says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." He breaks our bones because He loves us! He wants us to be closer to Him!

Please read Hebrews 12. Are you being chastened of God? Have you been? Have you ever thanked God for the bones He has broken?

Maybe we need to remember that not only does God chastise us, but He has borne most of our chastisement for us. Please read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. Will we, in thanks for what He has done for us, follow close to Him; or will we wander again, never learning the lesson of the safety with the Shepherd? Will we choose life or death?

--Martha Wagner
Gettysburg, Ohio

THINK ABOUT IT:

The Bible speaks of a time when men will be "ever learning, (yet) never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (II Timothy 3:7)

Sounds like late-twentieth-century times, doesn't it? More emphasis than ever is put on educating people on issues from A to Z, and of course lots of money is needed to do the job. Yet

so few are able to grasp the answers to the basic issues of life.

There may be several reasons for this problem. Some people may simply not care, and for those people, no amount of instruction will do any good until there is a change of attitude and desire. For others, the facts may enter the mind but never grip the heart. When the truth grips our hearts, it produces actions and answers. But the most perplexing reason of all is that many people in responsible positions believe that basic facts need not be taught; they are considered too simplistic and out-of-date. Nothing could be further from the truth, for the Bible is more up-to-date than tomorrow morning's newspaper.

To illustrate our point, let's briefly consider just one pertinent moral problem of society. *Question:* Why all the rape, child molesting, murder, broken homes, unwed mothers?

Reasons: It is a simple fact that a woman's body is attractive to a man. God has designed it that way for a noble purpose. But our society has taken the woman (mothers) out of the home and into the work place. It has paraded her scantily clad form on our streets. And it is teaching her daughters to do the same. This has brought women into some of the greatest bondage they have ever known, yet they have the audacity to call it Women's Liberation. Professing themselves to be wise, they have become fools! Men are equally guilty because they love to have it so, and do the same.

In addition our society is bombarded with corruption at every level through the television, pornographic literature, videos, and sex education that encourages permissiveness until our society has gone morally crazy. America, it is a time to blush and repent of all the nakedness and lewdness on our streets!

Answer: The Bible, in Mark 5, tells of a man who was devil-possessed, undressed, and uncontrollable. But after Jesus delivered him, he was found "sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind." True Christians still clothe and cover their bodies

as one positive contribution to moral purity. Shame on any professing disciple of Christ who has followed the world in its moral folly.

Real Christian education teaches basic moral principles of right and wrong, which bring true liberty and lead people to practical Bible conclusions. All else is the human reasoning of men, the "ever-learning" but never coming to the knowledge of the truth. It leads men farther from God and brings bondage, chaos, and finally destruction. **THINK ABOUT IT!**

--Marlin Kreider
from "Star of Hope"
selected by Herman Royer

GIFTS

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." (I Corinthians 13:1) A tinkling cymbal is a musical instrument with which a skillful player can make heart-flaming melody, so that all who hear him play can scarcely keep from dancing. Yet the cymbal does not contain life, and the music does not come out of it except by the ability of the one who plays upon it. The instrument can be crushed and thrown away, even though in the past wonderfully sweet music has been played upon it.

So are all those who have gifts but do not have saving grace. They are in the hands of Christ as the cymbal was in the hand of David. As David could use the cymbal in the service of God to lift up the hearts of the worshipers, so Christ can use gifted men to affect the souls of the people of His church, yet when He has finished using them, He can hang them up without life, even though they are sounding cymbals.

Such considerations were a sledge hammer upon the head of pride and the desire of vainglory. What! thought I, shall I be proud because I am a sounding brass? Is it such a great thing to be a fiddle? Does not the person who has the least of God in him have more than these instruments? Besides, I remembered that these instruments would vanish away, though love would never die. So I concluded that a little grace, a little love, a little of the true fear of God are better than all the gifts. I am convinced that it is possible for an ignorant soul who can scarcely give a right answer to have a thousand times more grace, and to be more in the love and favor of the Lord, than some who have marvelous gifts and can deliver themselves like angels.

I perceived that although gifts are good to accomplish the task they are designed for--the edification of others--yet they are empty and without power to save the soul unless God is using them. And having gifts is no sign of the man's relationship to God. This also made me see that gifts are dangerous things, not in themselves, but because of those evils of pride and vainglory that attend them. Blown up with the applause of ill-advised Christians, the poor creatures who possess these gifts can easily fall into the condemnation of the Devil.

I saw that he who has these gifts needs to be led into an understanding of the nature of them--that they do not prove that he is in a saved condition--lest he rely on them and so fall short of the grace of God.

He needs to walk humbly with God, to be little in his own eyes, and to remember that his gifts are not his own--they belong to the Church. By them he is made a servant of the Church; he must give at the last an account of his stewardship unto the Lord Jesus; and it will be a wonderful thing if he can give a good account.

Gifts are desirable, but great grace and small gifts are better than great gifts and no grace. The Bible does not say that the Lord gives gifts and glory, but that He gives grace and glory. Blessed is everyone to whom the Lord gives true grace, for that is a certain forerunner of glory.

--From the book Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners
by John Bunyan (his Spiritual Autobiography)
selected by Betty Beery

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

What is a Christian?
A child who says,
"I love you Jesus."
And then goes off to play,
And often his parents
He won't obey?

What is a Christian?
A teen who goes
To the Christian camp
And loves only his own way,
But cannot work at home,
Nor guide his tongue each day?

What is a Christian?
A man who goes to work
And tries to do his best,
But plays the football Sunday,
And never reads the Word,
And isn't ready for the final test?

What is a Christian?
A woman caught in daily cares
She runs about to and fro
Thinking only of her rights,
While sad at home, children grow
And miss a mother's sweet goodnights?

What is a Christian?
A youth empowered by the Son,
Living each day God has given,
And seeking for His plan,
Knowing in obedience, joy is there
And being helpful in his parent's care.

What is a Christian?
A pilgrim, yes, and more
Reading God's living Word,
And heeding it each day,
Helping others not build upon sand,
Till he, himself, reaches Promised Land.

--by Sharon See
Santa Rosa, California

BIRTHS

COVER -- A daughter, Rosalyn Faye, born June 11, to Ben and Jolene Cover of Tuolumne, California.

YODER -- A son, Logan Riley, born June 11, to Greg and Kimberly Yoder of Goshen, Indiana.

THAT BLESSED HOPE

"Till He come" (I Corinthians 11:26)

Till He come"; O, precious promise
To the pilgrim on his way!
Like the twinkling star of morning
Pointing to a perfect day.

"Till He come"; O, wondrous whisper
To the heart by sorrow tried!
Giving glimpses of that moment
When the tears of earth are dried.

"Till He come"; O, stirring signal
To the soldier in the fight!
Giving courage for the conflict
In the darkest hour of night.

"Till He come"; O heavenly music,
'Mid the medley of the earth!
Turning me from gilded pleasure
To the pearl of priceless worth.

"Till He come"; O, mighty moment,
Moving nearer on time's wing!
When the Church will rise triumphant,
To her marriage with the King.

"Till He come"; O, let me hear it,
Till the storms of life are past,
And I see Him in His beauty,
On the advent morn at last.

--John G. Ridley

selected by Murray Brillinger

THE PILGRIM
BE READY

Oh glorious day when Christ shall come,
To take us home with Him!
The sky grows bright! The angels come!
The Lord has come again!

The rocks do rend; the dead arise;
Now falls the mountain range!
Oh glory! what a glad surprise!
Our earthly bodies change!

Oh Saviour! Now no pain we feel,
No sorrow, grief, or woe!
The wondrous hope You have made real;
With You we'll always go!

Our mortal heart can never know,
This ecstasy divine.
We will be changed before we go
To that immortal clime.

But in this life change must begin,
If we with Christ would go.
He will change us, if we know Him;
His love will through us flow.

And now He says to us below;
"Be ready, tarry not!
Prepare, if you with Me would go!
I'll come when you think not!"

--James Beery
Nappanee, Indiana

To excel in any vocation we need to understand its field. To accomplish this takes devotion and commitment.

When we call on the name of the Lord to be saved, this involves a growing relationship with one another. Fruit bearing involves a relationship that is meaningful and a blessing.

Satan knows this truth very well; this is possibly his most successful battle front. He is able to convince many that the position we hold that is not in full agreement with our brother, is a Scriptural truth that merits the severing of relationship. When this happens we become helpless to bless or encourage one another. This has caused assemblies to disintegrate, church doors to close, and many to lose their faith.

There are conditions when relationships must be severed. When this is done on Biblical principles it does not hinder fruit bearing.

For us to be overcomers in this battle we must heed Paul's instruction in Philippians 2:2-5: "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain deceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus..." (NIV)

When this advice is heeded, Satan's power is bound; fruit bearing will be abundant; peace will reign; and righteousness will prevail.

--Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

CHILDREN'S PAGE: IF I WERE A _____.

When I was a boy, we milked cows. The cows were not kept in the barn after milking. They were turned out on pasture. Sometimes they were in the woods. Hills and valleys made it hard to find them all. Each morning and evening we had to bring them to the barn.

I read a story of a family that had several boys. They also milked cows. Each boy took turns getting the cows in to milk. Sometimes the boys couldn't find them all. Then they would all go out and bring in the lost cow. However, the youngest son would always bring them all in. His daddy asked him how he could always find them all. He answered. "That's easy! I just say to myself, ' If I were a cow, where would I go?'"

You may grin at this simple thinking. Jesus teaches with simple things. Remember the father that had two sons? The younger son wanted the money that was his, so he could go enjoy life. He left home and had many friends. Soon the money was gone and so were his friends. Now he was lonely and sad. He asked himself, "If I were a good boy, where would I go?" He thought of the many good things he had at home, plenty to eat and friends that always loved him. Jesus tells us that true friends will stick by us no matter what happens. We don't want friends that are with us only when we have good things to share. Children, remember when you are unhappy, ask yourself, "What could I do to be a happy child?" If you do what you know you should, you can bring all the smiles and happy times home with you.

--Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

WE WOULD BE BUILDING tune: "Finlandia"

We would be building; temples still undone
O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift;
Waiting till love can raise the broken stone,
And hearts creative bridge the human rift;
We would be building, Master, let Thy plan
Reveal the life that God would give to man.

Teach us to build; upon the solid rock
We set the dream that hardens into deed,
Ribbed with the steel that time and change doth mock,
The unfailing purpose of our noblest creed;
Teach us to build; O Master, lend us sight
To see the towers gleaming in the light.

O keep us building, Master; may our hands
Ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
When to our ears there come divine commands
And all the pride of sinful will departs;
We build with Thee, O grant enduring worth
Until the heavenly Kingdom comes on earth.

--P. E. Dietz

BACK TO SCHOOL

Pulling down my Strong's Concordance I see that the word "school" is used only once in the Bible. While in Ephesus, Paul in Acts 19:9 is recorded as "disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus." This could mean that he taught there daily, and the next verse tells us this continued for two years "...so that all they which dwell in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."

It is nearly time for school to begin again. Teachers will be arranging schedules and readying the school rooms. Home schoolers will also be sharpening pencils and getting the books ready. Teaching fills an important place in the Christian life, but the foremost place of teaching is not the school but the home and church. The first and main teachers of children are the parents.

Paul was an excellent teacher, for the Lord inspired him to give an important part of His Word. But before Paul was a teacher, he was a pupil. In his defense on the stairs of the castle in Jerusalem, he told the Jews he was "brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers..." This was probably as good a credential as he could have had in his time. We understand that Jewish boys studied literally "at the feet" of the Rabbi, sitting before him in a semi-circle on the floor. Gamaliel was one of the finest of the rabbis. Read of his wisdom regarding the treatment of the disciples in Acts 5:33-40.

The Bible speaks of various ones falling down at Jesus' feet and holding Him by the feet in worship. But when we sit at His

feet we are hearing Him and learning from Him. The maniac that Jesus healed was found "sitting at the feet of Jesus" (Luke 8:35), and Mary "sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word." (Luke 10:39) May we in our learning sit at the feet of Jesus and hear Him.

By learning from Jesus we can become good teachers. The principles in His Word can find application in daily teaching experiences whether it be in the school room, at home, in church, or with father and son working together.

In one of our teachers' institutes there was a session by Gerald Martin called "Identifying Teacher Generated Learning Problems." I would like to pass along some of his thoughts because they certainly are not limited to the school room, but find application in any teaching situation.

1. "Children will learn in spite of what we do." Diligent students will learn good things from a teacher or parent, even one with only mediocre ability and, sad to say, some students will learn poor habits and wrong conduct unless a teacher is diligent.

2. "Teachers must admit their faults." They also must allow for students' mistakes. Some mottos for the classroom might be: "An error is not a terror!" or "In this class it is permissible to make mistakes!" "Goofs are lessons!" On the other hand, we should not dwell on mistakes, whether the teacher or the pupils make them, but try to correct them.

3. "Teaching must be practical." "A \$1000 bill is good currency, but it will not buy a cup of coffee." Teaching must be at the student's level, understandable, and of use somehow in real life.

4. "To reach a child's mind, you must reach his heart." This, of course, applies to the best kind of teaching where true wisdom is imparted and not just head knowledge. "Mercy can only be taught mercifully." "Genuine sympathy will bridge an age gap."

5. "Resist temptation to be clever at somebody's expense." This is so fitting in our relationship in the church as well. Genuine love will rather promote and compliment others but never put them down.

We can learn to be good teachers of our children by studying the methods of Jesus, the Master Teacher. He used parables--stories to illustrate the principles He taught. Parables stick in our minds better than complex thoughts without the illumination of a story.

Jesus taught by repetition. Notice the same principle repeated in different ways in this verse from the Sermon on the Mount: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Matthew 5:44) May we not tire of hearing good things said over and over. This is one way to learn.

Jesus taught by contrast. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time... But I say unto you..."

He taught by question and answer, by symbols, by use of Scriptures. But one of His most effective, impressive methods was by example. One of our hymns says:

When Jesus, our great Master, came
To teach us in His Father's name,
In every act, in every thought,
He lived the precepts that He taught.

In directing His disciples to wash one another's feet as an example of loving service, He did it first. He told them, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." Peter records, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

May we learn of God, sitting at Jesus' feet, that we may in turn teach our children. Back to school? School never closes for God's people. --L.C.

THE CHRISTIAN'S GLORY

I recall a song I heard some time ago:

I don't have to hope in a star anymore,
Or turn my dreams to the wind,
For I have my hopes set on Jesus' promises
And I can live in Him.

The world has their stars they glory in, and try to imitate. But if you are one of God's redeemed ones, you also have a Star to glory in. His name is Jesus, and He will never fail you nor forsake you, and He's altogether lovely. In Revelation 22:16 it says, "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Has the day dawned, and the daystar arisen in your heart? (I Peter 1:19) Those who don't know Jesus are in darkness. It's night for them. But when a soul is led to Calvary--when he repents of his sins and knows his lost condition--when he says, "Lord I hate my sins which made You suffer, but I know I'm powerless to overcome; won't You save me!"--Then Jesus says, "My child, my blood avails for you. Your sins which are many are removed as far as the east is from the west. You know your weakness, but 'My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.'" Herein lies the answer to overcoming sin. We naturally want to resist sin on our own. But without Jesus we can do nothing, not even overcome sin. The battle is not yours, but the Lord's; only in Him will we conquer. For those who come to Jesus by faith, the day has dawned, for Jesus is the light of the world. And when our eyes are opened to His glory, the darkness departs. You might liken Jesus to a beautiful sunrise; when He approaches, the darkness flees away. But these bodies could not come too close to the sun and live. And then we know that these bodies must be changed, for corruption cannot inherit incorruption. But the mystery of it is, we shall be changed,

(I Cor. 15:5) and we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. O blessed hope!

--Kevin Garber

Twain Harte, California

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Hebrews 5:9)

This meaningful verse has stayed in my mind from a Bible study my husband led for us at home.

How wonderful! Jesus is the Author of our eternal salvation. How important the last four words are: "them that obey him." Oftentimes people grasp the eternal salvation part and rejoice. However we need to remember that **because** we are saved, we **obey** Him. We don't just say it, we live it. The Christian life is a **daily** walk in obedience to Jesus. Let "them that obey him" include us all.

THEM THAT OBEY HIM--HEB. 5:9

Four little words,
Little you see,
Pointing to Christ
Say you and me.

Them that obey
Follow the Lord
Living The Way.
Reach a reward;

Reading the Word,
Studying it too,
Praying to God,
Learning to do.

--Sharon L. See

Santa Rosa, California

GOD'S PLAN

The mighty king of Babylon,
So many years ago,
One night, in sleep a dream was shown:
God's plan fulfilled below.

The earthly kingdoms, as a man
Of mighty stature, fair;
Upon the feet, by God's own plan,
Was struck and broken there.

And then the stone, by God prepared,
Increased and filled the earth.
This vision has God's wisdom shared,
His plan of priceless worth.

When Jesus came, and taught the way--
His church established here,
The stone was cut, without man's say
God's plan became more clear.

This stone--God's church--is growing still;
O'er all the earth has spread;
Increasing through both good and ill,
As men by God, are led.

By observation with men's sight,
This kingdom cometh not;
God dwells in hearts that are made right,
That live the truth they've got.

This kingdom has some traits that show
That all who look may see.
It's not defined by man, you know;
But God, who makes us free.

It's not the name by which we're known,
That shows God's kingdom here;
But if our lives Christ's truth have shown,
And if it's Him they see.

Harmless and true, this kingdom is;
No evil, there is found.
We'll not have strife, if we are His,
But love will shine around.

No matter what that we may say,
'Tis God who will decide,
Just who are His--that lived His way;
Just who will be the bride.

This stone--His church--is growing still;
And will continue on,
Until it has fulfilled His will;
Then He will send the Son.

And then His glorious plan entire;
The earthly kingdoms gone;
Evil and death will then expire,
And all His church be one.

--James Beery
Nappanee, Indiana

HOW TO BE HAPPY

1. Give something away--
(no strings attached).
2. Do a kindness--
(and forget it).
3. Spend time with the aged--
(experience is priceless).
4. Look intently into the face of a baby--
(and marvel).
5. Laugh often--
(it is life's lubricant).
6. Give thanks--
(a thousand times a day is not too much).
7. Pray--
(or you will lose your way).
8. Work--
(with vim and vigor).
9. Plan as though you will live forever--
(you may).
10. Live as though you will die tomorrow--
(because you will die some tomorrow--
It just might be your last day.)
--author unknown

BAPTISM

We of the Salida congregation were all happy and rejoiced with the angels when Darrell Martin chose to follow the Master and received Christian baptism on July 24. Also received back into fellowship was his wife Mary. May they be faithful and helpful in God's Kingdom.

--Joseph L. Cover

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS

THE EARTH

As we study the Scriptures we are made to understand the earth is not just a fragment of a mass of matter, scattered in space by an explosion but a special creation, different from all other planets or heavenly bodies that men have discovered. It is the only one with an atmosphere capable of sustaining life as we have here. The earth has a blanket of air, which shows up plainly in photos taken from a distance like from the moon. There is no possibility of men surviving without oxygen. Air is a special mixture of water and gasses to sustain man, beast, trees, and all life.

EXCHANGES

Matthew 25:27: "Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury." So we see how important it is, to use whatever talents or gifts the Lord gives us to work with other believers to help each other.

JUDGE NOT

James 4:12: "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgeth another?" Jesus spoke very firmly to the Jews, about making ordinances and judging others by the rules they had made. I believe this spirit of judgement has effected all church bodies, and should be guarded against.

--Ernest Wagner

HOME DUTIES

DUTIES OF HUSBANDS, (continued)

Many fathers thoughtlessly counteract all the good influences and teachings of the mother, especially with the boys. You should not only not do this, but you should be a living example of all those things that are true, and honest, and just, and pure, and lovely, and of good report, which the mother seeks to impress upon her children. Be yourself all that you want your children to be when they grow up...

As the husband and father, you are also the minister and pastor of the household. Are you discharging the duties of that office, or have you abdicated it to another, to one who sorely needs your help in the work?

You believe in God and in His mercies, for I assume that I am not addressing atheists. Do you ever reverently mention His name, or gratefully speak of His mercies in the presence of your family?

You believe that the Bible is--to say the very least--a book full of excellent moral precepts. Do you ever read any of them to your children?

You believe in prayer, in the Lord's prayer certainly. Have you ever knelt with your family and repeated that prayer? Why should you not? Your wife, even though she be not a professor of religion, would rejoice to see you do it, and would heartily join you in such a step.

Perhaps your wife is a Christian. Though a loving and faithful wife to you, yet her dearest hopes are bound up in the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. Though sympathizing with you and helping you in your business cares and earthly hopes, yet, unaided by you, she soars above these things, and tries, as well as she can, without your help, to live for eternity as well as time. Only she and her God know how many tears are shed and

prayers offered in secret for your salvation. If you should turn over a new leaf and begin a true Christian life, the joy among the angels in heaven could not exceed the joy in the heart of the angel of your household.

There are other duties that husbands owe their wives, but these that I have mentioned are the principal ones.

Let me add a word of caution which, perhaps, some husbands may need. It is this: Do not make idols of your wives. Do not let your love for them hinder you from discharging your duties to God and your fellow men. Next to the claims of God, your wife has the strongest claim upon you. But others have claims also--your relatives, friends, neighbors, fellow citizens, and your fellow men. To be a disciple of Christ you must love Him more that you love father, mother, wife, children, brethren, sisters, your own life even. But loving Christ more does not and can not mean that you love them less than you did before. For if upon the love which you have for wife and friends you build a higher love for Him who is chiefest among ten thousand and altogether lovely, that higher love will purify and strengthen, it will enlarge and uplift, the other loves beyond all that was possible without it.

God help you, my brothers, to be good husbands, to love your wives as your own selves and as Christ loved the Church. May the roughness of life's pathway be made smooth and easy by the pure loves of your home, and when life's journey is finished may you and yours be united forever in that happy land where the true friendships of earth continue, but where they neither marry nor are given in marriage.

Husband love your wife.

1. Never find fault with her before others.
2. Remember the counsel of the good Book. Her husband shall praise her *in the gates*; that is, before folks.

3. Bear all her burdens for her; even then she'll bear more than you do, in spite of you.

4. If you want her to submit to your judgement, never ask her to submit to your selfishness.

5. A woman's life is made up of little things. Make her life happy by little courtesies.

6. Love is a wife's only wages. Don't scrimp in your pay.

--by R. T. Cross
from HOME DUTIES

Faith makes the difference between cowards and Calebs.

SPIRIT FRUIT

When man separated himself from God, through sin, he became the most violent of any of God's creatures. There was no other created being that could overpower and control fallen humanity. After violence became so great, God took it in His own hands to eliminate them from the earth--saving only one family (Noah's) that found grace in His sight.

After this, God began to reveal Himself by giving the law--for two reasons: First to reveal His very nature and holiness, and second to aid sinful man to function as a society. He gave this authority to man to enforce and interpret.

The downfall of society today (as a functional society) is because man is failing in the interpretation and enforcement of God's laws.

The law wasn't intended, in itself, to make us holy or righteous before God, but was to make us fit subjects for His Holy Spirit to live in. Jesus, coming to this world, is God's final

effort to bring us back to Him. He defeated, by the power of love, the one that was holding us in bondage.

This final battle raging between God and Satan was won in Gethsemane and revealed on Calvary. Satan's efforts to defeat God (knowing who Jesus was) used men, believing he could overcome and gain control by taking His life and placing Him in a secure tomb. God, in full control of the battle, didn't hinder Satan from using all his power and authority.

Satan's ability to take the life of a man that could raise the dead, heal the sick, and make the blind to see, probably made him feel like he was in control and had God buried forever. But it was short-lived; in three days God's greater power prevailed. Now God's effort to save man is finished. For us to be saved, we need to acknowledge this. (Rom. 10:9,10) We need to have faith in and be recipients of this power. Through faith in the resurrection we declare that Satan has lost his hold on the grave. (Hebrews 2:14,15)

The proof of this faith is revealed in the life we live--exercising in resurrection powers that rise above our natural abilities.

The test and validity of this faith is how we love--as Jesus was dying on the cross, He said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

One of the best testimonies of this resurrection power is in fellowship. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples.

Human nature does not allow close relationships for very long, because of the demands it makes on us. Human nature, being selfish, can only tolerate it for so long, then it needs to eliminate, and find new associates. This process is continued all through life. This is all a result of being separated from God.

May our love be without dissimulation.

--Kenneth Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

FOR YOUTH: EVEN EAGLES NEED A PUSH

The eagle gently coaxed her offspring toward the edge of the nest. Her heart quivered with conflicting emotions as she felt their resistance to her persistent nudging. "Why does the thrill of soaring have to begin with the fear of falling?" she thought. This ageless question was still unanswered for her.

As in the tradition of the species, her nest was located high on the shelf of a sheer rock face. Below there was nothing but air to support the wings of each child. "It is possible that this time it will not work?" she thought. Despite her fears, the eagle knew it was time. Her parental mission was all but complete. There remained one final task--the push.

The eagle drew fresh courage from an innate wisdom. Until her children discovered their wings, there was no purpose for their lives. Until they learned how to soar, they would fail to understand the privilege it was to have been born an eagle. The push was the greatest gift she had to offer. It was her supreme act of love. And so one by one she pushed them, and they flew!

--from an "American Way" magazine

So it is with us. God is looking down, with a heart of love, knowing these circumstances are best for us. Even though we may think it is one of the hardest things to go through...still, God's way is best. He "pushes" us from our ease and puts us where we can best be used by Him. If we accept this "push" we will actually learn to fly, or attain satisfaction in knowing God's way. This is the only way we can find purpose for our lives.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."
Isaiah 40:31

--Rhoda Cover

Tuolumne, California

CHILDREN'S PAGE: ZACCHAEUS SEES JESUS

Children like to climb trees. When high in a tree you can see far around you, and others can not see you. Sometimes we get hurt if we are not careful.

Long ago there was a little man that wanted to see Jesus. There was a big crowd of people. Everyone heard that Jesus was going to walk by this certain spot. This little man couldn't get close enough to see anything but there was a big tree nearby. He ran and climbed to the top. There he could see and no one could see him. Soon a large crowd of people came walking by. There in the center was Jesus. Zacchaeus was so excited. When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus hurry and come down. I want to go to your house today." If Zacchaeus was excited when he saw Jesus, how do you think he felt now? He could hardly get down fast enough. This great man wanted to go to his house. He could hardly believe it.

Every Sunday your parents go to church to learn more about Jesus. You also can see Jesus there. Not in person, but we hope you can see Him in the lives around you. When you sing and look at your Bible in church, you are telling others that you want to see Jesus. Just like Zacchaeus, later in life Jesus will tell you He wants to come to your House. Be ready to invite Him in.

--Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

JESUS KEEP ME

Jesus keep me ever near
In Thy love abiding;
With Thy promise to cheer
And in Thee confiding.

Help me grow from day to day
In Thy graceful favor;
Walking on the shining way
Never from Thee waver.

Follow Thee through sun and storm,
Safely in Thy keeping;
Feel Thy likeness in me form
Virtue through me creeping.

When the darkness gathers round,
Stars of hope be gleaming
There Thy footsteps may be found
Light from Thee be streaming.

Coming to the narrow stream
Ever Thou art leading
Where eternal glories gleam
And Thy sheep are feeding.

--J. I. Cover, 1964

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LET NO MAN DESPISE THY YOUTH

Young people like to do things. They have lots of energy to be used up in action, and may show impatience when something doesn't move as quickly as they'd like. Youth is fresh and healthy, idealistic and enthusiastic. Many older folks live in their past and wish they could be young again.

Truly there is something attractive in health, vigor, and action. Nobody likes to be stiff in the joints or forgetful in mind. But perpetual youth is not a goal for most of us in this life. In our thinking, we prepare for maturity.

In the Word of God, Jesus gives children as an example of pliability, and humility. But for youth the Bible mentions the "sins of youth" and "youthful lusts," treating youth as a time of imperfection and development. Paul writes to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth but be thou an example of the believers..."

It seems that in most Bible situations, age was counted more desirable. With age comes experience, wisdom, maturity. At least, this is the way it should be. When Paul writes "Let no man despise thy youth," he is allowing that this is possible--even something to strive for and accomplish. Timothy at this time was a leader in the church and obviously not a teenager--probably at least thirty. But still he was young and therefore not automatically respected. Respect had to be earned.

So it is in all times. Youth may be envied, may be favored and indulged, but to be respected, and trusted, young people must demonstrate a measure of maturity.

Christian maturity--spiritual maturity--is not limited to the aged. Peter directs that we "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye (we) may grow thereby."

Spiritual growth results from eating spiritual food. So one of the means by which we mature is by feeding faithfully on God's Word. This means not only to be able to quote the Word, but to know what it means and how we obey it. As we become proficient in the Word, we earn the respect of those who value this quality.

Besides maturing in the word, young people must also grow in experience. Continuing Paul's advice to Timothy "...but be thou an example of the believers..." Example refers to practise and conduct. As the Holy Spirit applies the Word to our lives, we begin to act like mature Christians. This can happen in youth. In fact, it is sad when it does not happen until old age. So much of our influence on others comes by our example. We can talk and write and tell of our faith, but unless we live it, it remains unconvincing to our friends and neighbors.

The directions to Timothy include the kind of example he should be: "...in word, in conversation (meaning our conduct), in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Anyone, young or old, who excels in these areas, will be a useful part of God's Kingdom.

Growth from youth to maturity must also be accomplished in our thought life and prayers. The apostle writes to "Pray without ceasing." He also instructs us to think on the things that are true, honest, just, pure, of good report, of virtue and praise. While our thoughts are not so obvious to others, they will have certain effect on what can be seen. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Proverbs 23:7)

Older people appreciate good manners in young people, when there is something more than problems with graffiti on bridges and skateboarders on sidewalks. In a gathering recently our daughters, who were the only young people present, were noticed and commended for their modesty and quiet manner. The policeman's job is easier because of the orderly conduct of our Christian youth. A number of good causes (including

The Pilgrim) have rejoiced for monetary donations from our eastern young folks. And it makes this editor glad when items for the youth page come in the mail!

Young folks, it is especially gratifying for us older ones to see you growing in the good graces. You can pass from childhood characteristics, which are mostly selfish, to the maturity of self denial. From self centeredness you can grow to love and kindness to others, and above all, reverence to God. This is nothing less than a miracle of God, for only God can accomplish it when we yield to Him.

Far from despising youth, older folks will rejoice and thank God when they see pure, trustworthy conduct, quiet speech, and respectable manners. May God bless our young people as they strive for maturity and perfection.

Youth is fun and free and fair;
Age is rich in wisdom.
Youth has energy and flair;
Age is slow and solemn.
Youth can learn and grow in grace;
Age can give example.
Youth can run and win the race
Tasting age's sample.
Come, young folks, give us a hand;
Age needs your fresh outlook,
Learn to pray and learn to stand,
Taught by God's own Good Book
Soon the time will come to pass;
Youth you'll be releasing.
Beauty fades just like the grass;
Wisdom keeps increasing.
Let the Spirit guide your heart;
Grow in grace and favor.
When the children take your part
Point them to your Saviour. --L.C.

TO WHOM IS GOD'S ARM REVEALED?

What is your view of Jesus of Nazareth? Do you see Him as just a man, a good man? Or do you see Him robed in the splendor and glory He had with the Father before the world was? We tend to see Jesus in His humanity. He knew weakness; His body felt pain just as ours. He was tempted in all points just as we are, yet He never sinned. And as Isaiah said so long ago, "He was despised, and we esteemed him not." We tend to see God as untouched and despise Jesus, the suffering, sorrowing Lamb of God, for His humanity. But it was for our crimes He suffered. Because of sin, mankind was as helpless as a lost lamb, all alone, with a fierce lion coming in for the kill. But the arm of God descended and took on a body of clay and was killed by the very beings He created. The Lamb of God came between us and the lion and shed His blood for our sins. He paid a price we could not pay, so that we might reign with Him forever. O what love! He also disarmed the lion, so that we need not fear if we abide in Him. Won't you love Him? Jesus is more than a man, so much more. Thomas called Him, "My Lord and my God." And Jesus said, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Jesus came the first time as a babe in a manger, and the angels of God worshipped Him. But He is coming again as the King of glory, and every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess, that Jesus is Lord. If Jesus is Lord of our lives, He must be loved and worshipped and His every wish obeyed. But if the flesh rules in our lives--if we give place to its every desire--then we can't call Him Lord. The world says, "Live for the flesh, but be 'smart', and you won't reap the consequences." But Paul says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap

corruption..." Live for Jesus, and you will know God's peace, and the hope of a glorious future.

--Kevin Garber

Twain Harte, California

LET HIM THAT IS ATHIRST COME. REV. 22:17

This invitation is still out for those that are thirsty for the Word of Life. Through Jesus' death on the cross and His glorious resurrection we still can have hope for the future. Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." (John 6:47) We, as Bible readers, have read of Paul where we find he has fought a good fight. He has finished his course and kept the faith. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day..." This reward is only for those who love and serve the Lord. We must be faithful. Many times we suffer for Christ's sake, but all this suffering will fade away when we meet our Blessed Lord. We must believe Jesus died and rose again. If you do not have this hope, now is the time to make a start and serve the Lord, for if you do not have this hope, there will be no home in Heaven. Our temptations cease when we go to our heavenly home. Sin is all taken away; no more tears or suffering there. Won't you start to live for the Lord and prepare for a home above?

--Betty Alltus

Modesto, California

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATIONS
EARTHQUAKES

From little babies to grown men and women, we have to develop our sense of balance, how to support our bodies on our legs without having to think about it, and we can concentrate our thoughts on other things. We naturally depend on the earth

as being solid footing, but if it moves, all our sense of balance is lost, and we feel helpless. We find, in reading the Scriptures, God using this method to make man feel their weakness and dependence on Him. But we find, near the end of time, they will not repent of evil. In Hebrews 12:26, God promised, "Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

FOOLISHNESS OF MAN

The prophet Jeremiah speaking of unconverted men, (Jeremiah 4:22) said of His people: "They are wise to do evil, but to do good, they have no knowledge." So if God's chosen people had fallen to such a condition, what can we expect of the nations that have turned away from God. We cannot expect wise decisions, when they decide their own course in life. It raises serious questions about letting people rule by voting their own laws to live by.

--Ernest Wagner

GOD'S PLAN. OUR CHOICE

A temple here, upon the earth,
The Lord in wisdom made.
'Twas pure and clean, of priceless worth,
Whose beauty ne'er should fade.

But scarcely was the work complete,
When Satan came along;
With enmity and hate replete;
Desiring to do wrong.

This temple was the human heart,
Which Satan did assail.
Man was deceived, from God did part;
Oh! Shall God's great work fail?

Praise God! Though man through weakness fell;
God's temple did defile;
Yet God's great love, a way did tell,
To save and reconcile!

At greatest cost, he sent the Son,
This temple to restore;
This heart again, from Satan won,
Might fall to sin no more.

And there again, did Satan try,
To cause God's plan to fail.
He even caused the Son to die;
But here God did prevail.

The way is sure, and e'en today,
Our temple can be pure.
Satan can not destroy this way;
The Lord has made it sure.

Each one of us, a temple is;
Defiled or pure 'twill be.
The choice is ours, we can be His,
Or endless misery see.

Let's keep our temples pure, and then
Someday our Lord we'll see.
For Jesus will come back again,
So we in Heaven can be. --James Beery

THE DUTIES OF WIVES

"To love their husbands." Titus 2:4

Love is the one word that sums up all the duties that we owe to all forms of being. As it includes all the duties which the husband owes the wife, so it includes all the duties which the wife owes the husband.

There is a correlation of duties between husband and wife. Many of the duties are the same on both sides, and much of what I have said about the duties of husbands to love their wives affectionately, to be faithful to them, to comfort them in trouble, to confide in them, and to assist them in the moral and religious training of the family, applies also to the wife. And the proper adjustment of duties between the two brings about an equality, so that one is not eased and the other burdened, while they also bear one another's burdens. If I do not make plain this equality of duties the fault is not in my theory but in the imperfect way in which I set it forth.

Under the general duty of love the first particular duty that I mention is--

1. *To have for your husband a loving reverence, or a reverential love.*

The divine command: "Let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." Ephesians 5:33

The husband is commanded to honor his wife as the weaker vessel, (I Peter 3:7), not that she is weaker in every respect,, but in some respects, especially in physical strength. Now, if it is the husband's duty to love and honor the wife as the weaker vessel, then it is her corresponding duty to love and reverence him as the stronger, as her protector, as the head of the family. Woman, in physical stature, is of less height than man by

several inches, and the resulting necessity of looking up to look into his face is symbolical of the looking up of her nature to his in respect to the rougher, sterner, aspects of life.

No true woman wants a husband whom she cannot reverence, and to whom she cannot look up. And though this may involve obedience in some things, yet the common sense of men and women everywhere recognizes this as an order of nature, and hence the order ordained of God. Every woman, in accepting a husband, should be very careful not to accept one whose character is such that she cannot lovingly reverence him for what he is in himself, as well as for the position which he will hold as her husband.

2. *To obey her husband.*

Listen to the teachings of God's Word on this point: "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." Colossians 3:18 The next verse commands husbands to love their wives and be not bitter against them.

"Teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed." (Titus 2:4,5) -to be continued

--by R. T. Cross from *HOME DUTIES*

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OBITUARY

ESTHER LEAH BOONE was born on 7th September, 1928, near Mulberry, Indiana, USA, to parents Ora Samuel and Alice Elizabeth Skiles. She died suddenly in her sleep on 17th May, 1994, at the age of 65 years, 8 months, and 2 days, at her home in Dubbo, N.S.W., Australia.

She is survived by her husband Owen; daughters: Lucille Boone of San Jose, CA, USA; Kathleen Nash of Parkes; and Carolyn Shipway of Bylong; grandchildren: Sarah, Allison, and Hannah Nash; Timothy, Stephen, Robert, Elizabeth, and Catherine Boone; Anthony, Glenn, Matthew, and Raymond Shipway; son-in-laws: Curtis Jones, Ian Nash, and George Shipway; and daughter-in-law, Lorna Boone; three brothers: Ora Jr., Modesto CA.; Daniel Clinton, Santa Rosa, CA.; David, of Cuba, New Mexico; all of the USA; and sister, Nita Alf of Wee Waa. She was preceded in death by her parents and son Michael.

In 1932, the Skiles family moved to California and settled on a small farm near Modesto. Esther attended Prescott Grammar School, Modesto High, and Modesto Jr. College.

Her parents held the Scripture in high regard and tried to follow, literally, the teachings of the Bible. She grew up knowing the love of God and the consequences of sin, and early put her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, making a public commitment at the age of 16. She had a growing faith and love for the Lord and expressed this in every area of her life. She enjoyed music and sang in the High School acapella choir and later was part of a sextet which sang at Youth for Christ meetings. Hymns and Christian songs were part of her everyday life.

Esther was married to Owen Boone on 5th February, 1949. They celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary this year. They

settled on a dairy farm, and this was their work while they lived in California. In 1945, they migrated to Australia living first in WeeWaa, then near Bourke where they made their home until they moved to Dubbo 5 years ago.

Esther was gifted with organization skills, great drive and energy, and had the ability to complete the task at hand. She was an active member in the family farming business. The P&C., Meals on Wheels, and others in the community benefited by the years of service she willingly undertook. She played an active part in various Christian organizations. While in Bourke, Esther and Owen helped form the beginning of Cornerstone on part of their property. She participated in CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International) and served on the regional board for 8 years. Later, she was a member of the Auxiliary of the Gideons International in Australia. Esther was an active member in the church and various Bible study groups over the years.

People of all ages and types were special to Esther. She found time to play with children, visit the sick and elderly, or phone a friend. She was observant of individual needs and looked for ways to meet them. She was an encourager, a steadfast friend, and a gracious hostess.

During difficult times in her life, faith in the Sovereign Lord sustained her. Michael's death a few years ago was such a time. In working through her grief and loss there was a deepening of her faith, and she testified to the loving kindness and mercy of our Heavenly Father.

Esther's life touched many people, some now scattered around the world. She kept a correspondence with many, and her prayer list included a wide number of friends, family, missionaries, and various groups. A great number have been recipients of her generous and warm hospitality and the openness of her home.

--The Family.

SPIRIT FRUIT

Jesus came into the world that we might have life and have it more abundantly. He knew man was helpless to attain this himself. Jesus knew the cause and had the remedy, and proved Himself victorious before the world.

He promises that all who put their faith and trust in Him will be able to live abundantly.

Satan is restrained and cannot overcome those that keep themselves in Christ's love. He promises that no one can pluck us out of His hand.

All men desire fulfillment and contentment. The reason man is unable to attain this himself, is because of selfishness and independence and not understanding what the purpose of life is. The cause of all this is separation from the wisdom of God.

In carnal man's pursuit of fulfillment and blessing, he is at war with his fellowman and accuses him of being his obstacle. Paul describes this in picture language in Titus 3:3. "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward men appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

The carnal man eliminates his fellowman, but the spiritual man receives him. And this is the key to abundant living.

The greatest asset in life is in true fellowship with believers. It is worth more than anything else we can attain.

It is the only environment (of our choosing) where we can grow and abound in His holiness. It is where all our physical and spiritual needs can be met. It is affordable for every living soul--the price is all we have and are--*no more and no less*.

No one needs to feel inferior or unable. There is no excuse for any man to not be in the fellowship of abundant living.

The apostle John was so intrigued by this news that he did not want anyone to miss it. "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." (I John 1:1-4)

--Kenneth Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

BAPTISM

We of the Salida congregation rejoiced with the angels when Jennifer Crowley chose to confess Christ publicly and received Christian baptism on August 7. May she be faithful as she serves in God's Kingdom. --Joseph L. Cover

COMMUNION MEETING NOTICES

We, the members of the Eastern District of the Old Brethren have appointed October 1 and 2, the Lord willing, for our Fall Lovefeast Communion to be held at our meeting house near Bradford, Ohio. We extend a hearty welcome to all our members and friends to attend this meeting. --Melvin Coning

We the members of the Old Brethren Church in California, have agreed to hold our Fall Lovefeast, the Lord willing, at Salida on October 15 and 16. We sincerely welcome all to come and be with us at this time of communion and revival.

--Joseph L. Cover

FOR YOUTH: BARABBAS' SUBSTITUTE

"And Pilate released Barabbas...and delivered Jesus... to be crucified."

Mark 15:15

What didst thou think upon that day,
Barabbas, malefactor vile,
Awaiting agony and death
In that short while,
When to thy prison door one came
And said, "Barabbas, thou art free;
Another man will take thy place
And die for thee"?

With awe and trembling wonder filled,
Thou must have followed to the place
Where He was nailed upon thy cross,
To see His face;
Thou must have marked thy fellow thief,
And listened to his pleading cry,
And heard the confident, clear voice
That made reply.

Thou must have owned thy lasting debt
To him whose death for thee sufficed,
And said, "This man is more than man;
This is the Christ."
Thou must have felt thy hardened heart
With love and gratitude o'erflow
To Him who bore thy punishment,
And let thee go.

And shall my own heart love Him less?
For, as He died that day for thee--
Barabbas, murderer and thief--
And set thee free,
So, when my guilty soul deserved
The law's extremest penalty,
He died, my sinless Substitute,
Instead of me.

--Annie Johnson Flint

Selected by Sarah Cover

CHILDREN'S PAGE: LITTLE THINGS

Little drops of water
Little grains of sand
Make a mighty ocean
And a pleasant land.

Did you ever sing that song? Do you know what it means?

One little drop of water doesn't amount to much, but a lot of drops of water make a big ocean. In the same way, one little grain of sand doesn't do anybody any good, but a lot of them together fill a sand box and even more of them make a farm.

Do you ever complain because the jobs you are given to do seem so small and boring? Like washing dishes, emptying garbage, picking up toys, feeding calves, and other such things? Do you wish you could do big things like big Brother and Sister or Mom and Dad? If you could just do these bigger jobs, then you would work cheerfully and well, wouldn't you? It doesn't work like that, though. Lots of little jobs get a big job done, and if the little jobs aren't done well, the big job won't be either, will it?

The Bible says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." That means to do your jobs well, whether they be big or little. Working for your parents and teachers really is your way of serving Christ--and that's important work!

--Elva Royer
Goshen, Indiana

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

CHRISTIAN'S HOME

I'm but a stranger here; Heaven is my home;
Earth is a desert drear; Heaven is my home:
Danger and sorrow stand 'round me on every hand;
Heaven is my father-land, Heaven is my home.

What, though the tempests rage? Heaven is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage; Heaven is my home:
And time's wild, wintry blast soon will be overpassed;
I shall reach home at last; Heaven is my home.

There, at my Saviour's side, Heaven is my home;
I shall be glorified; Heaven is my home:
There are the good and blest, those I love most and best;
There, too, I soon shall rest; Heaven is my home.

Therefore I murmur not; Heaven is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot, Heaven is my home;
And I shall surely stand there at my Lord's right hand--
Heaven is my father-land; Heaven is my home.

--from Spiritual Hymns

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FREEDOM TO SERVE

Fivescore years ago our fathers brought forth to this state a new fellowship conceived in the grace of God and dedicated to the proposition that all men are called to be obedient and victorious children of God. Now we are engaged in a great warfare testing whether that fellowship, or any fellowship, so conceived and so dedicated can long endure...

Exactly one hundred years ago--October 10, Uncle Jake and Aunt Mary Cover arrived in Southern California. There were a few Brethren before them, but they were the first of the Cover family. Within 17 years all of Uncle Jake's brothers and sisters with their families had made the move from the East to the new farm land of California. On the centennial day, Lowell Beachler and his fellow grandchildren of Uncle John and Aunt Mary, invited the Cover family to a memorial celebration. We reviewed the past, and again pondered the responsibility a Christian heritage places on a generation such as ours. The nation of Lincoln's day was engaged in civil war--a time of testing. We too are engaged in a war that tests us individually and as a fellowship. He gave the Gettysburg Address on a battlefield, and we also see casualties of battle around us.

Our fathers have left us good examples. But we know we are not in God's family simply because our parents were. Each generation, each individual, needs a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. The faith of our fathers must become our faith. When we consider the traditions of the past, we must know why they are important--worth keeping. On the one hand, we must not accept blindly the faith of former generation. On the other hand, neither must we carelessly

cast off the traditions of our fathers. We need to not only "prove all things" but also "hold fast that which is good."

Freedom is the cry of our generation. But freedom is a test for faith. Our spiritual ancestors left Europe and found welcome freedom in the New World. Those who pushed west were known for their individuality. They were adventurous--even restless. While we may chafe under supposed bondage (of customs, heritage, parental expectations, or whatever) let us remember that freedom carries great responsibility. We prize our liberty, but does it really help us to be better servants of Christ? It should make us thankful to God; it should help us to envision better our indebtedness.

Paul writes in Galatians 5:13: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

In ages past, some were "free" and some were not--that is, some had the privilege of owning land, making their own choices, determining how they would make a living (like we do), and some were hopelessly bound in conditions of poverty, and someone else told them what to do. For those who have always had this freedom, submitting to Jesus as Lord, may be more difficult than for those disciplined by bondage. Consider the way the gospel brought hope to the slaves in our country, and how readily they received it. Of Jesus' ministry it was said, "The common people heard him gladly."

Individualism can gradually creep in on us, and what we were shocked at once can become commonplace and allowable. Once a young man working his own farm was diligent to get up early to begin the day. He had a loud alarm clock that woke him each morning. But for several mornings in a row, because it was raining anyway, he let the alarm ring and went back to sleep. The next morning when he wanted to get up early to travel a distance to church, he failed to hear his clock even though its ring was loud. It taught him that he was also becom-

ing used to some practices that once seemed quite alarming to him.

Are we making choices on our own that perhaps once we would have asked counsel on? Would we rather not be accountable to our brethren? Do we think our affairs are our own, and no one else needs to be concerned? Is it easier to make choices without worrying about what others might think, or what brethren of the past decided?

May we retain and treasure our dependence on one another, our concern for one another, and our respect for our fathers. "No man is an island; no man stands alone!" is particularly fitting in the church of Jesus Christ. He is the Head; we are members one of another. We demonstrate this in the Communion. May we live it out day by day.

The Brethren heritage, in part, is one of working together and helping one another. The pioneers needed this kind of cooperation to survive. We also need harmony and sharing to survive as a brotherhood. In modern city living, it is said that people hardly know their neighbors. But Christians are their "brother's keepers." As those with much freedom we also have much responsibility. The Church of Christ will "long endure." the question is whether we will be a victorious part of it. --L.C.

DO YOU LOVE ME DADDY?

As I got bigger I realized you were disappointed when I was born and found out you wanted a girl instead of me, a boy. Perhaps the first time I understood this was when you gave my sister a snack cake and you gave me two soda crackers.

Do you love me, Daddy?

One time you slammed my fingers in the kitchen door and it hurt so bad! While Mommie cared for me you hollered at me for having my fingers in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Do you love me, Daddy?

Another time I worked real hard hoeing and pulling weeds in the garden because you said you'd take me fishing. A neighbor came by, and you talked 'shop' for a long time. You said you would take me another time, but you never did.

Do you love me, Daddy?

When we had visitors you were so happy and acted like a good Christian dad should act. You were polite to everybody in the visiting family, including each of the children. After they left you started reading a magazine and you didn't want me to look. Do you love me, Daddy?

A man from a cult came to the door and wanted you to buy his literature. You told him you were a Christian and you didn't need his literature. While you were talking I remembered the time I spilt my milk at the table and you hit my face so hard it knocked me off my chair. Do you love me, Daddy?

You were trying to fix Mommie's sweeper and you used some words that didn't sound right for a Christian dad to use. Later, when I was trying to fix my toy truck I used one of those words. There was a sweeper attachment handy and you reached for it and gave me a great whack on my hand. You never did explain the difference. Do you love me, Daddy?

And then the night you went back to the pond without me. I followed you later. I was at the edge where the cattails are and got in too deep and fell into the water at a dropping off place. I never got out. Do you miss me, Daddy?

--Mildred Skiles

Torreón Navajo Mission

PRAYER AND A DEFINITE RELIGIOUS STANDARD

The Scriptures alone make the standard of life and experience. When we make our own standard, there is delusion and falsity for our desires, convenience and pleasure from the rule and that is always a fleshly and a low rule. From it, all the

fundamental principles of a Christlike religion are left out. Whatever standard of religion which makes in it provision for the flesh is unscriptural and hurtful.

Nor will it do to leave it to others to fix the standard of religion for us. When we allow others to make our standard of religion, it is generally deficient because in imitation, defects are transferred to the imitator more readily than virtues, and a second edition of a man is marred by its defects.

The most serious damage in thus determining what religion is by what others say, is in allowing current opinion, the contagion of example, the grade of religion current among us, to shape our religious opinions and characters. Adroniram Judson once wrote to a friend, "Let me beg you, not to rest contented with the commonplace religion that is now so prevalent."

Commonplace religion is pleasing to the flesh and blood. There is no self-denial in it, no cross bearing, no self-crucifixion. It is good enough for our neighbors. Why should we be singular and straight-laced? Others are living on a low plane, on a compromising level, living as the world lives. Why should we be so peculiar, zealous of good works? Why should we fight to win heaven while so many are sailing there on "flowery beds of ease"? Are the easy-going, careless, sauntering crowd living prayerless lives, going to heaven? Is heaven a fit place for ease loving people? That is the supreme question.

Paul gives the following caution about making for ourselves the jolly, pleasure-seeking religious company all about us the standard of our measurement.

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the

rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you."

No standard of religion is worth a moment's consideration which leaves prayer out of the account. No standard is worth any thought which does not make prayer the main thing in religion. So necessary is prayer, so fundamental in God's plan, so all important to everything like a religious life, that it enters into all Biblical religion. Prayer itself is a standard, definite, emphatic, scriptural. A life of prayer is the divine rule. This is the pattern, just as our Lord, being a man of prayer, is the one pattern for us after whom to copy.

--from the Complete Book of Prayer by E.M.Bounds
Selected by Ken Johnson

FAITH

Lord, give me faith--to live from day to day,
With tranquil heart to do my simple part,
And, with my hand in Thine, to go Thy way.

Lord, give me faith--to trust, if not to know;
With quiet mind in all things Thee to find,
And, child-like, go where Thou wouldst have me go.

Lord, give me faith--to leave it all to Thee,
The future is Thy gift; I would not lift
The veil Thy love has hung between it and me.

--John Oxenham
selected by Murray Brillinger

OBITUARY

ELIZABETH CAROLINE (GANGER) SKILES, next to youngest daughter of Levi and Catherine (Wise) Ganger, was born March 24, 1902, in Carroll County, Indiana. She peacefully passed away on the evening of September 6, 1994, in her son Roger's home, at the age of 92 years, 5 months, and 13 days.

With her parents she moved to Elkart County in 1913.

At an early age she was baptized into the Old Brethren Church and remained faithful to the end.

On November 17, 1923, she was married to Aaron D. Skiles, by S. W. Yost, at the home of her parents near Goshen, Indiana. They shared their joys and sorrows together for 70 years and 10 months.

To this union were born 2 sons and 2 daughters: Harriet (Mrs. Chester) Barton of North Manchester, IN; Pauline (Mrs. Gerald) Martin of Elkhart, IN; Richard D. and companion Barbara of Modesto, CA; and Roger L. and companion Mable of Wakarusa, IN. Also surviving are 15 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four sisters: Sarah Lucille Pierce, Clara Yost, Effie Faye Yoder, Rosa Brovont; two half-brothers: Arthur Ganger and Homer Ganger; one grandson, Keith Daniel Barton and one great-grandson Kevin Martin.

After their marriage they spent 2 years in Clinton County, Indiana. In 1925, they moved to Elkart County, Indiana, where they spent their remaining years.

In 1930, they were called to the office of deacon.

After several years of declining health, she called for anointing which gave her much comfort.

Mother was a beautiful example of what a godly woman should be, and we are eternally grateful for our Christian heritage. To the end she was always concerned about others' needs before her own. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends, but we feel our loss is her eternal gain.

A short service was held at Rieth, Rohrer, and Ehret Funeral Home in Wakarusa, September 10, with further services conducted at the Yellow Creek Old German Baptist Church at 9:30 A.M. by Joseph Cover and Thomas Royer.

The body was laid to rest until the resurrection in the West Goshen Cemetery. --The Family

UNCLE ERNEST'S MEDITATION

JOY SET BEFORE US

Hebrews 12:1,2: "...Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of God." We have this joy promised us if we will accept it. He paid the price and wants us to come and add to His joy; the more that come, the greater the joy will be. In Revelation, after Jesus gave the message to the churches, John was taken to Heaven to see Jesus accept His responsibility to be our High Priest. John told what he saw, in as plain a language as he could. Jesus took the little book that was sealed. He had power to break the seals that held our fate. God sent Him to earth to bring our Salvation; then He returned to Heaven to be our High Priest, and we can become adopted sons and daughters in the family of God with Jesus; So let us accept the joy that is set before us.

--Ernest Wagner

With this issue we are pleased to begin a biography of Peter Becker by Karen L. Conley. Karen is a direct descendant of Peter Becker and wrote this lifestory as a Grade 11 school project. She graduated from Sonlight Christian School and is the daughter of Jacob and Anna Mae Conley of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. --L.C.

PATIENCE: THE LIFESTORY OF PETER BECKER

Germany was not a very peaceful place to live in the late 1600's, especially if you were trying to live a life of piety. The religious authorities did not take kindly to devout persons who wanted to question beliefs and find what the Bible had to say. The church was closely tied to the government. People who left the church, or started churches of their own, upset the system.

It was here, in the country town of Dilsheim, that a baby boy was born to a Presbyterian family in 1687. The proud parents named him Peter. Little is known of his parents, but we can see some of their character by the way they raised their son. They taught him carefully the tenets of the church. They brought him up with sobriety and made sure he knew his manners. He received a good education for his time, and was well aware of his parents' love and their desire for him to grow into a responsible young man.

Peter's father was a weaver, and the boy early learned the trade. His eager hands were skillfully guided by his father's patient ones, and his judgment as carefully honed by his father's council. Dilsheim was a well-known center for fine silks and linens. The Becker's material was nothing to "sneeze at" either and was as fine as the rest of them. Peter followed in his father's footsteps and became an excellent weaver.

In 1708, when Peter was 21, a small movement was beginning that he was quite unaware of, but it was to have a great affect on his life.

At Schwarzenau, in the province of Wittgenstein, a group of eight concerned people were meeting for Bible study and prayer. These people were living here temporarily to escape persecution elsewhere, because the Count of this area was a mild, tolerant man. They became convinced of their need for believer's baptism, by immersion. The customary sprinkling they had received as infants was hardly a statement of faith.

So it was they met one morning at the house of Alexander Mack, and after a prayer, filed silently across the field to the Eder River. This group consisted of Alexander Mack and his wife Anna Margaretha, George Grebi, John Kipping and his wife Joanna, Andrew Bony, Lucas Vetter, and Joanna Noethinger, or Bony, who perhaps was a widow.

One of the men baptized Mack, by immersing him forward three times. Then Mack, in turn, baptized the other seven. The identity of the man who baptized Mack is unknown because the group wanted it that way. For then it could not be said that any certain man had started the group. The time of year is also lost in history. These details are unimportant, though. What matters is that these people did what they felt was right, and a new church was to grow and thrive because of their obedience.

The group chose Alexander Mack to be their leader. They became known as the *Taufers* or *German Baptist Brethren*. They called themselves Brethren, but were often referred to as Baptists because of their close association with them.

As Peter grew and matured, so did his thoughts and interests. One young lady in particular attracted his attention. Her name was Anna Dorothea Partman. She was likewise drawn to the earnest young weaver and gladly promised to be his wife. So, with their parents' consent and blessing, the two were wed.

Peter began to question more and more the doctrines he had been taught as a child in the Presbyterian church. He heard, as had any other person in his day, about the Anabaptist groups that were causing so much trouble for the established churches.

What began as curiosity changed to a feeling that something in his life was lacking as he learned more about these people and what they stood for. He likely visited around, to the Mennonites and Baptists in the area, as well as the Brethren.

Although it is obvious he knew the Brethren beforehand, the earliest record we have of Peter's contact with the church is that of his baptism.

He cast his lot in with the Brethren at Schwarzenau in early May of 1714. Peter, his wife, and a Gottfried Neumann were baptized near the Dudelsheim woods by the Elder Christian Libe. The town officials from nearby Dudelsheim recorded all the baptisms done by the Brethren, much as they regretted having to do so. The baptisms of the Beckers caused a considerable stir because they were subjects of the count, rather than settlers to the area, as the others had been.

In 1715, Peter Becker and his wife moved with many of the Brethren to Creyfelt, Germany, to escape persecutions. This area of the country was controlled by the King of Prussia, who was at that time rather lenient.

Peter became a song leader for the Brethren. It is written that he was "a most gifted singer and most eloquent man in prayer. Not an effective speaker, but of sound judgment, great moderation, and sufficient tact to manage successfully the weighty burdens laid upon him."

The church grew but also experienced the problems a new, growing church has. The members of the church came from many different backgrounds. Controversial issues required much prayer and special effort to come to a unified decision.

(to be continued)

SPIRIT FRUIT

Carnal warfare is justified by man, in that there is an issue at stake that supposedly merits the destruction and elimination of all opposition.

History reveals the honor and glory of carnal warfare. The face of the earth is strewn with memorials and monuments that honor men--both victor and defeated--men that were engaged in destruction and elimination of one another.

Warfare in which physical powers are used leaves a deplorable sight. We see the face of the earth destroyed, men's bodies wounded and crippled--death and suffering. This is accepted and honored, and seemingly they feel, a necessary function for security in their pursuit of peace and justice.

The wisdom of carnal man will never be able to find peace that will deliver them from their desire to destroy one another in retaliation in claims of justice.

There is another type of carnal warfare that also leaves a trail of misery and suffering, in which man feels justified because of the issues at stake. This is in separation and severing of relationships--in which all true and meaningful fellowship is destroyed. This is one of the most destructive forces raging on earth. Its forces are able to convey its misery and destruction from one generation to another. It has shattered and destroyed the home. It has divided kingdoms of men and carries with it hatred and malice for thousands of years. It is a force that is attacking the church. It is always there to offer its services in times of trial and has been quite successful.

Once its seed is sown in a generation, it puts it into bondage and blinds it in discerning truth. The only power that can deliver it is the love of Christ. Thanks be to God, "who hath

delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." (Col. 1:13)

The righteousness of God has called us to be separate from sin and the sinner. When this is done, in the spirit of truth, it brings sorrow and compassion rather than retaliation and vengeance.

God's building is rising; its banner is "peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." (Heb. 12:15) --Kenneth Martin, Nappanee, Indiana.

BAPTISM

On October 4, we were happy to have Merrill Royer unite with us by Christian baptism upon the confession of his faith in Jesus. May he ever be true to the One who brought life and salvation to all who will faithfully serve Him. --Melvin Coning

BIRTHS

WRAY -- a daughter, Rebecca Sue, born September 3, to Arlan and Anna Marie Wray of Pomona, Kansas.

BAYER -- A son, Hans Israel Garber, born September 5, to John, Jr. and Loraine Bayer of Dayton, Ohio.

COVER -- A daughter, Helyn Brooke, born October 16, to Jerry and Martha Cover of Tuolumne, California.

MARRIAGE

CABLE--CONING Andrew Cable and Joanna Coning were married October 8, 1994, near Wakarusa, Indiana.

Their address is: 27320 C.R. 42
Wakarusa, Indiana
(219) 862-2148

YOUTH PAGE: LOVE

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34,35)

Love is affectionate concern for the well-being of others; a feeling of warm personal attachment, as for a parent, child, or friend. How deep is God's love? "Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it out of the pit of corruption." (Isaiah 38:17)

Once an atheist was blaspheming God in a certain marketplace. He challenged God to show His power by striking him dead in five minutes. When the five minutes passed, the atheist spoke, "What did I tell you?"

An old lady asked, "Sir, have you any children?"

"Why?" the man queried.

"Well," the lady answered, "If one of your children handed you a knife and said, 'Kill me, Daddy,' would you do it?"

"Why no!" the atheist replied. "I love them too much!"

"That is exactly why God did not strike you dead," said the lady. "He loves you too much."

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

--Laura Cover

Love is the fountain whence all true obedience flows;

The Christian serves the God he loves

And loves the God he knows.

He treads the heavenly road and neither faints nor tires;

That generous love which warms his breast

When fortitude inspires.

No burden seems so great, no task so hard appears,

But this he cheerfully performs and that he meekly bears.

May love--that shining grace--o'er all my powers preside;

Direct my thoughts suggest my words, and every action guide!

--Benjamin Beddome

CHILDREN'S PAGE: A HEALTHY HEART

Do you have heart trouble? Before you reply an emphatic, "Of course not; I'm a healthy child!" let me hasten on to explain that I don't mean things like heart attack, high blood pressure, and irregular heart beats. What I do mean is, does your heart have trouble doing and saying the things it shouldn't? Or do you have a healthy heart that truly tries to do what it should?

Our heart controls our tongue and actions. Sometimes we say and do things we wish later we hadn't, don't we? For this kind of heart trouble, we don't need to go to the medical doctor. Instead we can say, "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that," or "Will you forgive me? I did something I shouldn't have." Doing this doesn't cost lots of money like going to the medical doctor does, but it does mean doing something that isn't easy. Your parents want to keep you from developing serious heart problems, so they punish when you do and say wrong things--and that's not pleasant either. That is what it takes, though, to help your hearts become more pure, more filled with love, and less filled with bad things.

The Bible says, "Blessed are the pure in heart..." It goes on to say, "...for they shall see God." The rewards for purity are great!

--Elva Royer

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

IF BUT ONE YEAR

If I had but one year to live;
One year to help; one year to give;
One year to love; one year to bless;
One year of better things to stress;
One year to sing; one year to smile;
To brighten earth a little while;
One year to sing my Master's praise;
One year to fill with work my days;
One year to strive for a reward,
When I should stand before my Lord,
I think that I should spend each day
Witnessing along the way
For my Lord. For from afar
The call may come to cross the bar
At any time, and I must be
Prepared to meet eternity.

So if I have a year to live,
Or just one day in which to give
A pleasant smile, a helping hand,
A mind that tried to understand,
A fellow-creature when in need,
'Tis one with me--I take no heed;
But try to live each day He sends
To serve my gracious Master's ends.

--Author Unknown

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THANKSGIVING FOR PEACE

Collecting our mail the other day, we found a catalog of school material with a cover picture of General Grant and General Lee in their dramatic meeting at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, to arrange terms of surrender at the close of the Civil War. This ended a tragic conflict in which people of the same nation fought each other. It sometimes involved close friends or even brothers lined up on opposite sides of the battle. How could it happen? And yet we know wars are the result of the sinful, fallen condition of mankind. They should make us appreciate more the peace we enjoy today.

As a special Thanksgiving theme, we can thank God for the peace that Jesus brought.

Peace takes different forms, but it is always good if it is genuine. A nation like ours is never quite in complete peace. But we thank God that there is no full scale war; the draft is past, and most of the nation's economy can focus on peacetime pursuits. To remember the anxiety, the deaths, the rationing, the hatred of the enemy evidenced on every hand during war should make us thankful for a period of national peace.

Peace is more than an absence of conflict. It is a positive characteristic given by God. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." It is difficult to measure all the benefits of this peace. Those who have received it in their hearts have a priceless treasure. And it has come from Jesus at great cost.

The most blessed form of peace is that in the heart. It is peace between God and His creature; the peace Jesus made at Calvary. Several of the Old Testament prophets proclaimed that the Lord had a "controversy" with His people. This

controversy, when man turned against his Maker, was resolved when Jesus died. Now the peace can come inside because the rebellion is reconciled; the sin is pardoned. God made the peace at Calvary and each man and woman must meet Him there in repentance and submission.

Peace comes when hostilities cease. David was at peace with Hiram, king of Tyre to the North of Israel. David did not have to conquer that nation. The results were good because Hiram was the supplier of the material to build the temple when Solomon came to the throne.

Peace carries great benefits. The Pax Romana, the Roman peace, lasted for 180 years. The Romans had subdued the nations around them making a great empire of nations with open borders. Those who preached the Gospel in the early years of the church (like Paul) had no hostile borders to cross, no passports or time-wasting formalities. They took the Gospel over the good Roman roads into every nation of the world. We don't have secular records for this, but notice Paul's words in Colossians 1:23: "...and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister." God used the Pax Romana to accomplish this amazing feat. We know God is not limited to man's situations. He must have transported some of His messengers like he did to Philip in Acts 8:39,40.

Peace carries responsibility. We are bound by duty to be peaceable and to be peacemakers. Any conflict is like a fire. Those involved can either add fuel or pour on water. Fuel for a conflict can be bitter words, gossip, retaliation, or ridicule. Peace can come when someone is willing to say, "I'm sorry," or to turn the other cheek, or to make some positive effort toward being friendly and kind. Peace can come when we have love for the enemies as Jesus commanded.

As I write, it is Thanksgiving Day. (I know this Pilgrim will be late due to circumstances beyond our control.) It is intended as a day to thank God for all our blessings. But today I particularly thank God for peace--peace in the nation, peace in the church, peace in the home, and peace in our hearts as we let Jesus, the Prince of Peace, control us from the inside out. --L.C.

THOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING

"I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, my Lord..." (Phil 3:8) This is the happy season of ripening cornfields, of merry song of the reapers, of the secured and garnered grain. If we are to bear much fruit, we must be buried in darkness and solitude. After Paul considered everything he had accomplished in his life, he said that it was all worthless when compared with knowing Christ. So we wonder, as we harvest the fields, and fill the bins, where we place the gratitude of harvest. Many of us don't till the soil and reap the crops of the field; we are employed in different areas, for different reasons, but our harvest is still from the Lord and all belongs to Him. Many times we fail to be thankful as we receive our pay checks, thinking we just deserve it; we really worked for it; but the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. "Thankfulness," then is the parent of all other virtues.

In the two epistles of Peter, he wrote to "strangers" which were actually "pilgrims." The word "strangers" used in I Peter 1:1, and I Peter 2:11 comes from a Greek word (parepidemos), meaning a resident foreigner, and its only other New Testament usage is in Hebrews 11:13, speaking of the ancient patriarchs, who confessed that they were "strangers" and "pilgrims" on the earth. We give honor today to the American "pilgrims" as they called themselves (thinking of these very verses), who left their homelands in order to better serve God in a foreign land. The pilgrims to whom Peter was writing likewise had been

"scattered abroad" for their faith: (see Acts 8:4.) While we are here, we may endure many trials and sorrows, just as did those Massachusetts pilgrims, but He nevertheless supplies our needs, just as He did for them, and we ought to abound in Thanksgiving as they did. Of all people in the history of the world, do more have cause for thanksgiving than American Christians? Therefore, since we are "enriched in everything," through our Savior, this "causeth through us thanksgiving" to God (II Cor. 9:11), and we should be "abounding therein with thanksgiving." (Col. 2:7)

In Isaiah 55:1-3, we are instructed to come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Food costs money, lasts only a short time, and meets only physical needs. God offers us free nourishment that feeds our souls, and we can have it if we come, listen, seek, and call upon God. God's salvation is freely offered, but to nourish our souls, we must eagerly receive it. We will starve spiritually without this food as surely as we will starve without our daily bread. Are you thirsty, or complacent and indifferent, so satisfied with your own experience that you want nothing more of God? Beware of building your faith on experience, or your life will not ring true and will only sound the note of a critical spirit. It is a humbling experience to knock at God's door. You have to knock with the crucified thief, but to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." (Psalm 100:4) The process of truly giving thanks is more difficult than some of us imagine. It is difficult because we tend to believe that we deserve the good things we have. We believe we have earned these things by our hard work, ingenuity, and skill. Our pride prevents our thanks. Giving thanks is also difficult because many of us find ourselves in situations in which the bad things seem to outnumber the good things. We have soured ourselves to the point where we don't want to give thanks for

everything. Our lack of perspective prevents our thanks. Being thankful is difficult because we need to identify the person we are thanking. We cannot properly thank forces or events. It is a person who must be thanked, and as soon as we thank a person we acknowledge our indebtedness to that person. Thanksgiving Day is an occasion to thank people for the share they have had in our lives, but, even more so, it is a time to declare our absolute dependence upon God the Father for life, for gifts, and for His Son, Jesus Christ.

The United States has set aside a day of national thanksgiving. Believers will go to worship to thank God for His gifts during the past year. It's fitting for a nation to acknowledge that God is the source of their good gifts. And it's a great privilege to be part of a nation that will stop to thank God. Citizens of Canada did that last month. Whether or not you live in a country that declares a special day for thanksgiving, bear in mind that the Lord wants all of us to thank Him as individuals. Recount in your mind and heart how good God has been to you. Lift your heart in a special prayer of thanks to God, and lift your voice in a song of thanks. In Psalm 100, the Psalmist recites some of our reasons for thanks:

1. God made us (100:3), and life is a precious gift.
2. We are His people (100:3), and salvation has come to us through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
3. His love endures forever (100:5), in spite of all the obstacles we put in its way.
4. His faithfulness continues through all generations (100:5), and He can be trusted.

If you live in freedom or under oppression, if you're healthy or sick, if you're rich or poor, give thanks. No matter what, give thanks anyway. The Word of God invites us all to do that. The phrase, "thanksgiving is thanks living" should be our motto each and every day we live, and our lives should manifest our

thankfulness to Him in our every word and deed.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." (Col 3:17) Genuine thankfulness is marked by a desire to express itself with more than words. We want to give something in return, not as payment for a debt but as gratitude for a gift. Christ loved us so much that He gave Himself for us. (Eph. 5:2) Because of His sacrificial death, our sins are forgiven (1:7), and we enjoy wonderful spiritual blessings. (vv. 3-5), although we will want to respond by thanking Him with our lips for all He has done for us. (5:4) True gratitude will also be shown in other areas of our lives. To express our appreciation, we ought to "walk in love" (v. 2), avoid any hint of immorality or greed (v. 3), and clean up our language. (v. 4) That's thanksgiving, and it pleases God. It is through the Salvation of Jesus Christ that we are made perfectly fit for the purpose of God. We must not trust man who fails, but in Jesus Who never fails. Jesus! What a Source, what a Supply, what a Channel! Are we truly thankful for His gift, and do we really show it in our words and deeds? What we already have is far greater than anything we could ever desire.

"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy on me, and hear my prayer." (Psalm 4:1) This psalm may have been written as David was asking his enemies to reconsider their support of Absalom. This is one of the grandest testimonies ever given by man to the moral government of God. It is not a man's thanksgiving that he has been set free from suffering. It is a thanksgiving that he has been set free through suffering: "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." He declares the sorrows of life to have been themselves the source of life's enlargement. "If Joseph had not been Egypt's prisoner, he had never been Egypt's governor. The iron chain about his feet ushered in the golden chain about his neck." (selected)

For sometime, now, we have been thanking and praising our God, even for circumstances and situations we don't understand and can't control. It is our great desire, that we will endeavor to be more grateful for the things we have and enjoy, and yes, even for things beyond our control. As we serve an honest and faithful God, let us affirm to be more like Him, and less what we have been, trusting His grace and mercy, and thereby believing and living our faith in His Son. Then He will make us broken bread and poured-out wine with which to feed and nourish others. "And now, brethren I commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Acts 20:32) With thankful hearts give praise to Jesus

For His blessings without end;
Let's give to Him our full devotion,
He's our Saviour and our Friend.

--Lyle J. Gish, North Manchester, Indiana

ADDRESS CHANGE

Andrew & Joanna Cable's zip code is Wakarusa, 46573

Kevin & Ina Martin-----69260 C.R. 13, New Paris,

Indiana 46553 (219) 831-6569

BIRTHS

OBERHOLZER -- A son, Blaine Elliott, born November 17, to Shane and Beth Oberholzer of Nappanee, Indiana.

GARBER -- A son, Glen Welty, born November 18, to Clair and Ruth Garber of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

MARRIAGE

CABLE--WENGER Aaron Cable and Arlene Wenger were married November 12, 1994, near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Their address is-----25623 C.R. 44 Rte. 4, Nappanee,

Indiana 46550

(219) 862-2238

TRUE VALUES

Many aspire to do great deeds,
That they may fill some pressing needs;
To strive, and rise to heights of fame,
To make for self a well known name.

And there are those, who seek for power,
That before them all men would cower;
That they may be the one to say,
What others do from day to day.

Some would be rich, and live in ease,
To use great wealth, themselves to please.
They disregard all others' need,
To others' pain they take no heed.

In all these things, and many more,
Are found what man is seeking for;
But all when gained are empty dross,
And will result in endless loss.

How can we judge, what we should do?
What is worthwhile, to thus pursue?
What values choose, that will endure?
What labor for, to be secure?

In Christ alone, is found true peace,
And values that will never cease
To satisfy our every need;
This truth, all through God's Word, we read.

These values then, will still endure,
Through all eternity, secure,
When mortal life has fled away,
And we have gone to endless day.

--James Beery
Nappanee, Indiana

PATIENCE: THE LIFESTORY OF PETER BECKER
(CONTINUED)

The church grew but also experienced the problems a new, growing church has. The members of the church came from many different backgrounds. Controversial issues required much prayer and special effort to come to a unified decision. This was made especially evident in the following case.

There was a young minister in the Croyfelt congregation by the name of William Hacker (Hager). He was a scholarly man, and full of holy zeal. He was a close friend of Peter Becker's.

Hacker became acquainted with the daughter of a merchant. Her father had been baptized by the Brethren, but he continued preaching to the Mennonites because the Mennonites wanted him to. The young woman, however, was not a member of the church.

The girl's father was pleased at the prospect of having Hacker for a son-in-law. He officiated at the wedding and married the pair with his blessing.

Their marriage threw the congregation into an uproar. The problem was, of course, that Hacker, a minister, had married outside the church. Elder Christian Libe and four other Brethren, who happened to be single, rose up and excommunicated Hacker. John Haas and many others, including Peter Becker, felt that Hacker should only have been suspended from sharing in communion.

Elder Libe's stand on the issue did not put the matter to rest. The point, then, seemed not to be so much about marrying outside the church, but as to whether or not the Brethren were going to practice the ban.

This problem developed into a major stumbling block. Libe remained adamant in his decision. In the past, he was a preacher to the Dutch and had spent time in prison for it. He was a man who knew what he thought and had little time for

compromise. Perhaps things would have been different if he had not experienced the things he did. As it was, many hard feelings and accusations were exchanged among the members. It is recorded that 100 persons or more who were convinced of their need for baptism did not join the church because of the quarreling and discord they witnessed there.

And what became of Hacker? He was a conscientious man, and the disapproval of his Brethren had a great effect on him. He took sick and died.

Peter, who was a close friend of Hacker, was also deeply affected by the problem. He supported Hacker and stood by him throughout the ordeal.

Perhaps the saddest and most ironic part of this incident was Elder Libe's actions in the following years. His attempts to keep the congregation together were ineffective. He married outside the church himself, and became a merchant. Eventually he was even a wine merchant, which was clearly against Brethren teaching.

This controversy with the wounds it caused was the major reason that the first group of Brethren emigrated to America. Peter decided to move to Pennsylvania; and others, when they heard it, wanted to go along. The problems, however, were to follow them across the ocean.

The year was 1719. The Brethren in Germany had had many opportunities to hear about Pennsylvania, and particularly Germantown. They had heard about the religious freedom that was available, and how comparatively easy it was to earn a living. There were also several organizations interested in shuttling settlers across the ocean, such as the Frankfort Land Company, which was employed in bringing good German families to Pennsylvania.

Peter Becker was the organizer and leader of the group of twenty families, or about 120 persons. Exactly who all the people were that came over with Peter we don't know. The

name of the ship is also unknown.

The voyage was stormy, and lasted at least two months. Descriptions of voyages taken within a few years of this one provide a pretty good idea of what they were like. Here is one account from Gottlieb Mittelberger, who came over thirty-one years after Peter Becker did.

"...Want of provisions, hunger, thirst, frost, heat, dampness, anxiety, want, afflictions and lamentations, together with other trouble...the lice abound so frightfully, especially on sick people, that they can be scraped off the body. The misery reaches a climax when a gale rages for two or three nights and days so that everyone believes the ship will go to the bottom..."

With conditions like those, it is easy to see that social relations were not enhanced during the trip. In fact, the most miserable part of the trip was undoubtedly the hard feelings that were exchanged.

"Among the healthy, impatience sometimes grows so great and cruel that one curses the other, or himself and the day of his birth, and sometimes they come near killing each other. Misery and malice join each other, so that they cheat and rob one another. One always reproaches the other with having persuaded him to undertake the journey..."

"Many sigh and cry: 'Oh, that I were at home again, and if I had to lie in my pig-sty!' Or they say: 'O God, if I only had a piece of good bread, or a good fresh drop of water!' Many people whimper, sigh, and cry piteously for their homes... Many people necessarily die and perish in misery, and must be cast into the sea, which drives their relatives or those that persuaded them to undertake the journey, to such despair that it is almost impossible to pacify them..."

Arrival in the New World would produce mixed feelings: joy and relief that you had finally made it; despair and depression because so many of your loved ones were gone, you weren't so healthy yourself, and you had practically nothing to start out with. (to be continued)

--Karen L. Conley
Mount Joy, Pennsylvania

SPIRIT FRUIT

When God identified Himself with the human family, and became one of them in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, it was an act of wisdom and bravery beyond the full comprehension of the human mind. But God has given us the capability to have a saving knowledge of Him, and every man has this accountability and responsibility.

Christ's mission in coming to this world was to save us from our sins, that we might have eternal life.

In this, He served in three dimensions: to make atonement for sin, to destroy the power of the grave, and to teach us, that we might know Him. Man is accountable to the third dimension to be saved.

The apostle Paul testified to this truth, and was willing to suffer the loss of all he had, and count it but dung that he might know Him. (Phil 3:9,10)

St. John, in his first epistle (4:17) wrote, "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." To be as He is in this world can only be attained by knowing Him.

The only source of this knowledge is in His Word--the Holy Scriptures. Herein we find all that can be known about Him--the words He has spoken and the acts of His life.

In His final days on earth, Jesus had a message for the heart of man that has sustained, and will sustain it into eternity--that is peace that no power on earth can take from us.

The setting in which He gives this message is proof of this. As we observe this scene in Christ's life, there couldn't have been a better time for Him to present peace that passes all understanding. A peace the world knows nothing about--nor can have.

He had just told His disciples that He was about to leave them, and this world. He told them He was about to suffer from the hands He came to save and love. He knew His disciples were going to forsake Him.

The day came when all this took place. Also the earth quaked; the sun refused to shine. The atmosphere reeked with hatred and malice. In it all, this Man proved the power of peace.

As He is, so are we in this world. May we know Him as He is.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts, and minds through Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:7)

--Kenneth Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

FOR YOUTH: FREELY GIVE

An interesting comparison is made of the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Though they are not far apart geographically, the difference in the two seas is vast. While the Sea of Galilee teems with plant and animal life and supplies a living for many fisherman, the Dead Sea is incapable of supporting any form of life. I've read that its waters are so deadly that birds won't even fly over them. Both seas are supplied with water by the Jordan River. The difference is that the Sea of Galilee thrives because it passes water on, whereas the Dead Sea has no outlet, so the water stays and stagnates.

"Freely ye have received, freely give," is what Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 10:8. Those words still apply to me today. If I, like the Sea of Galilee, give freely, my life will be healthy and productive. If I receive and don't give, or give sparingly, I will not be capable of living an abundant life.

--Jean Martin

Nappanee, Indiana

THANK GOD FOR YOU

Thank God for you, good friend of mine,
Seldom is friendship such as thine;
How very much I wish to be
As helpful as you've been to me.

Thank God for you.

When I recall from time to time
How you inspired this heart of mine,
I find myself inclined to pray,
"God bless my friend this very day."

Thank God for you.

Of many prayer requests, one thou art
On whom I ask God to impart
Rich blessings from His storehouse rare,
And grant to you His gracious care.

Thank God for you.

So often at the throne of grace,
There comes a picture of your face,
And then instinctively I pray
That God may guide you all the way.

Thank God for you.

Some day I hope with you to stand
Before the throne at God's right hand,
And say to you at journey's end,
You have been to me a faithful friend.

Thank God for you.

--selected from Pulpit Helps

CHILDREN'S PAGE: CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

One Sunday as I sat in church before meeting began, one of my little friends came up to me and pulled down on my arm. Thinking he wanted to tell me something, I leaned down. He kissed me on the cheek. It surprised me and I said thank you. In your happy childish way you smiled and went your happy way. I had no doubt that we had a good relationship between us.

Proverbs 18:19 says that a brother offended is harder to win than a strong city. In other words if I do something to make any one feel bad toward me, it is very hard to regain their trust.

When nations get in conflict with each other, they go to war. The one that is the strongest wins. Sometimes it takes years before the war is ended. Proverbs says that my brother that I have wronged is harder to win than this strong city. The answer to this is to be as careful as we can and not wrong anyone.

My little friend that gave me the kiss, I am sure will sometime be a brother in the Lord. I hope then you can give me a kiss and smile. I will say thank you. I trust we can always have a relationship that will be pleasing to Jesus.

--Everett Oyler

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

COME, ALL YE SHEPHERDS

Come, all ye shepherds, ye children of earth,
Come ye, bring greetings to yon heavenly birth.
For Christ the Lord unto us is given,
Whom God for Savior sent down from heaven:
Fear not ye Him!

Hasten then, hasten to Bethlehem's stall,
There to see heaven descend to us all.
With holy feeling there humbly kneeling,
We will adore Him, bow down before Him,
Worship the King!

Angels and shepherds together we go,
Seeking this Saviour from all earthly woe;
While angels winging, His praises singing,
Heaven's echos ringing, peace on earth bringing,
Good will to men. Amen.

--Bohemian Folk Song

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WORSHIP

The sign proclaimed, "The wise men worshipped Jesus; wise men still do." It is true that when the wise men came to the house in Bethlehem where Mary and her baby Jesus were, they "fell down and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." When the shepherds saw Him they "returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them." When Simeon saw this special Baby, "Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God...For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." When Anna saw Him she "gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem."

All these by direct revelation gave special reverence to Jesus. He was a baby then. He came that way. We call it the incarnation when "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Jesus grew and became a man, the best Man there ever was. We worship Him today, not because He was the best man, but because He is the Son of God.

Men must be careful what or whom they worship. The greatest insult is given to God when His creatures bow down and worship something else. Isaiah records (42:8): "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." (43:11): "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."

Over and over God pronounced His judgment upon Israel for their principal sin which was idolatry. Recording it made Jeremiah weep for his people. They went to captivity in Babylon for idolatry. After Babylon, they still had sins of pride, im-

morality, and greed, but they did not, as a people, again worship idols.

Do we suppose God has changed His mind for us today? No, idols in our lives are just as much an offence today as 3,000 years ago. John writes, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." Paul, in Colossians 3:5, identifies covetousness as idolatry. In I Corinthians 10, he urges and begs us not to be involved with the idolatry and failings that caused God to overthrow the Israelites in the wilderness. He concludes his warning with "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." The devil had the audacity to tempt Jesus by offering Him all the kingdoms of the world if He would fall down and worship him--the ultimate insult to God. Jesus answered, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

If covetousness is idolatry, then the problem is still with us. At this time of year more things are brought as gifts. This alone does not mean we are covetous, but children brought up in this atmosphere of gift-giving must be carefully taught the truth--that God is first--that it is more blessed to give than to receive--that the poor we have always with us and "whosoever ye will ye may do them good"--that extravagance is sin, even if we can afford it--that we live in a dying world that has largely ignored God--and that the issues are life and death--not how much we can accumulate.

The answer to idolatry is the one Jesus gave the devil: "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." We need to be filled with good in order to be delivered from evil. Light dispels darkness. To keep from idols, we need to enter into true worship, to let worship fill our hearts. We need to be careful what or whom we worship. Jesus is no longer in the manger. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. We worship God because He made us to give Him glory. Man is not worthy of glory. Paul wanted to glory only in the cross.

Do we enjoy and thrill to worship God? Do we assemble together in gratitude, and not because we must or that it is "the thing to do"? Can we say like the psalmist, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God..."

As we need to be filled with good to resist evil, so our problems come by first forsaking our duty. If we continue the true worship of God, "in the beauty of holiness" the adversary has no place to work. This is true at "Christmas" time as well as in July.

Jesus is on the throne, today. He is there in victory because He met our souls' needs at the cross. The manger was on the path He walked, but His goal was the cross where He made atonement for the sins of the world. He lives again and all power is given to Him. Let us worship him today.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Call on Him now in meekness and fear.
Come to His presence with joy and with singing;
Seek His kind face while His Spirit is near.

Jesus has power and grace to redeem us;
He gives us aid when the tempter comes by.
Only in Him can we find a sure refuge;
He reaches down from His throne up on high.

Jesus was small and laid in a manger.
"Low lay his head with the beasts of the stall."
Now He is crowned with honor and glory;
He is the Maker and Saviour of all.

Come let us worship in true adoration;
Our heart's devotion the least we can give;
Humble ourselves in truth and contrition;
Come let us worship; in faith let us live. --L.C.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Gal. 6:14: "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me; and I unto the world." The cross of Christ declares many things: the exceeding great love of God; our lost condition; our total inability to come to God on our own strength, righteousness, or wisdom; and our complete dependence on our heavenly Father for everything. To be crucified was to be put to death by nailing, or binding a person to a cross. Death was normally brought about in two or three days. It was considered one of the most terrible forms of punishment. It says in Mark's gospel that Jesus was crucified the third hour, and died about the ninth hour. He hung on the cross alive for at least six hours. The last three hours there was darkness over the whole land. Then Jesus cried aloud, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He died of a broken heart. What glory do you see here? Oh what suffering, what untold agony, what pain He bore there. The greatest may have been in being forsaken by His Father at the most heart-breaking moment of His life, and all because of sin.

Can you imagine being there? From the sixth hour, or noon, to the ninth hour, or three in the afternoon, there was thick darkness over the whole land. Then Jesus cried aloud and died. The veil of the temple was rent in twain; there was an earthquake; the rocks were rent. A Roman centurion declared, "Truly this man was the Son of God." After the darkness was past, what do you suppose the sunset looked like that evening? What must it have been like after the resurrection, to meet many of the saints who had risen? And yet there was a people, His own people, who were so hard and set in their ways, they could not believe. Incredible!

The sky was dark when Jesus died, but it does not end here,

praise God. The sky is lightened, the price is paid, for Jesus is victor! For death could not hold Him; the grave could not keep Him; He lives! This is He "who (has) the keys of hell and of death," (Rev. 1:18) and "is the Almighty." (Rev.1:8) For all power has been given Him in heaven and in earth. And He did not die in vain; an innumerable company of people is now living because of that one death. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Though he were dead? Gal. 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." II Cor. 1:9: "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead."

The cross of Jesus Christ where our sins were washed away, is also symbolic of the Christian's victory road in this world, after conversion. For the only way to bear fruit, and overcome the world, is for the body of sins, the old carnal nature, self, to remain nailed to His cross. We must abide in Him, Jesus the crucified One, if we would reign with Him, Jesus the glorified One. (See I Cor. 2:2 and II Tim, 2:12.) This is that slow, painful death the cross symbolizes. For just about the time we think self is dead, and we think we stand, we fall. This should cause us to lose all confidence in the deceitful human heart, and say with Paul, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of my Lord Jesus Christ." For when we are weak, by faith He becomes our strength.

I Cor. 1:18: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." When we leave the preaching of the cross out of the Gospel, it becomes self-centered, instead of Christ-centered. Those who abhor the preaching of the cross, also don't like to speak of repentance. It becomes another gospel that appeals to the world. But Paul said the cross of Jesus in which he glorified,

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caused the world to be crucified to him, or die. Something that dies becomes unclean and loathsome; we want to bury it, remove it from our sight. Thus is the world to the Christian; they are death to us. Jesus said in John 15:12, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." Jesus loved us to the point of laying down His life. Thus are we to love, not just those who love us, but all mankind. For they can be turned "from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God," and receive forgiveness of their sins, and an inheritance among them who are sanctified by faith that is in Jesus! This is why we are left in this world after conversion. But beware! If we start to look on the world with awe, and instead of seeing them as a mission field, and a battleground, become their friend and take their hand and learn their ways, they will become a snare to us and become thorns in our sides and pricks in our eyes. And instead of winning them, they have won us; we have fallen. And when we combine this fallen state with a form of godliness, we have become enemies of the cross of Christ. (Phil. 3:18) God would rather we not even profess to know Him, than to be lukewarm, for instead of gathering with Christ we are scattering abroad.

II Cor. 6:17-18: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." That which makes the cross so offensive is persecution. (See Gal. 5:11.) But "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." To use wisdom of words in preaching, has the danger of making the cross of Christ of none affect. (See I Cor. 1:17 and Phil. 3:18-21.) People get turned off from the cross by a hard, cold, self-righteous, better-than-thou spirit. But the biggest motivation to take up the cross and follow Jesus is love, God's love! II Cor. 5:14,15: "For the love of Christ constraineth us... that they which live should not henceforth live

unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." Eph. 3:19: "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge..." This will cause us to say with Paul, "Oh that I may win Him, be found in Him, that I might know Him!" He is so wonderful; He is my King!

It's a way of selflessness; It's a way of Love;
 It's a way of giving; It comes by self abandonment,
 Living for others' happiness. Knowing and loving Jesus
 Is the only way to find it. If you would walk this way,
 Be prepared for suffering, For many don't accept it.
 But the peace, joy, and happiness you gain
 Far outweigh the losses. And eternity will reveal
 It's exceeding great reward!

If we are true to Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, we will suffer here. But when you compare life in this vapor of time, to eternity and the world's fleeting treasure, with the glory which will last forever, then you'll know it's worth it all. This is the way the Saviour walked, the way of the cross. --Kevin Garber, Twain Harte, California

HISTORICAL

PATIENCE: THE LIFESTORY OF PETER BECKER (CONTINUED)

Peter Becker's group docked at Philadelphia and then moved to Germantown.

Germantown was a well-established town in the new World, having been settled in 1683. It was flourishing and productive and certainly impressed the Brethren party. Main Street was wide and lined with peach trees. Families grew sizeable vegetable and flower gardens on the rich, black ground of their three acre plots. Fields lay north and south of town, and nearby were lovely vineyards, orchards, and beehives. That the hardworking Germans were expert farmers and skilled artisans is undeniable. That the new arrivals from the Old World were

uplifted by the well-kept surroundings and familiar sound of their mother tongue is also undisputable.

Germantown was often where German settlers settled down, and the Becker party was no exception.

The squabbles from Germany and the rigors of the difficult voyage had left their mark on the group. The Brethren ceased to hold Sunday meetings and slowly dispersed as they worked to establish themselves in the New World.

Peter Becker acquired twenty-three acres of land in Germantown on which he cultivated cereals and flax. He set up his loom and resumed his trade of weaving. He was especially adept at weaving stockings, and his stockings became known as "Germantown hose."

Conrad Beissel came to the New World a year after Peter did. He apprenticed himself to Peter so that he could learn the art of weaving. Formerly he was a baker and also a fiddler, but he decided he could make a better living in America by weaving.

Peter Becker was a calm, thoughtful man; Conrad Beissel was a dynamic, restless man. He wasn't afraid to voice his opinions, or to ask blunt questions. He liked to argue theology, and spent much time in discussion with Peter. They did not always see eye-to-eye, but they tried not to let disagreements interfere with their friendship.

Beissel was not one to let problems fester. He was quick to notice the lack of unity among the Brethren who were now living in America. Beissel urged Peter to visit the scattered Brethren.

Beissel lived with the Beckers only a year before leaving for the Conestoga country. There he and some of his friends lived as hermits. They made an attempt at communal living but their experiments failed.

In 1722, Peter Becker with Henry Trout and another brother went around to visit the scattered Brethren. A revival

spirit ensued and the Brethren began meeting again for worship. They resolved to put away past conflicts. Meetings were held alternately at Peter Becker's house and John Gomorry's (Gumre).

A year later, in the month of August, a rumor was spread that the famed Christian Libe had come to Philadelphia. Many people travelled the distance to see him, only to find that the whole story had been a big mistake. The Brethren persuaded the disappointed people to attend their meeting instead.

They left the meeting with much to think about. They saw for themselves the love the Brethren had for each other and heard firsthand about the problems they were working to overcome. Four weeks later, another meeting was held. Consequently, several of these awakened persons asked the Brethren for baptism.

--Karen L. Conley
Mount Joy, PA.

SPIRIT FRUIT: PEACEMAKING

Jesus brought from Heaven a knowledge that will change God's judgment against us, in that we were eternally condemned and forever separated from God. He also brought to us the knowledge of God's divine nature.

To be recipients of the blessings of this knowledge (which is eternal life) we need to know it intellectually, and only from this premise can we acceptably bear fruit that brings honor and glory to God. It will reveal the form and also the power.

Jesus lived and taught the divine nature of God, and assures us we can mature into this also, through the power of the Holy Spirit which is the testimony of salvation.

Peace is one of the chief attributes of divine nature. Paul (or the writer of Hebrews) called our attention to this and declared that without this we can't see God. (Heb. 12:14) This includes peace with God, with our fellow men, and with ourselves.

We are at peace with God in the manner He dealt with us in our sins--that our soul and spirit will never need to see death (through a proper faith and conduct in Him), and that the earthly house we dwell in will have to suffer and see decay. We accept this and fully trust in God's sovereignty and justice.

He not only called us to peace, but that we should be instruments of peace. We should be peacemakers. (Mat. 5) Peacemaking is a skilled profession; only a man of peace, Jesus taught, can qualify. Peace makers aren't running from the struggles of humanity, not avoiding the conflict, not isolating themselves from their fellowmen. But they are speaking the truth in love, suffering at the hands of the arrogant, not taking sides one against another, but rather trying to reconcile one to another.

"Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace and ensue it. (I Peter 3:9-11) This is the manner in which peace makers pursue their vocation in light of God's Word. It is on a one-to-one basis in a loving invitation.

There is another claim made in peace making; it is called pacifism. Its roots are from human reasoning. They use nonviolent forces in collective demonstration, and through political means, demand the issues. A forced peace has no eternal value; it lasts no longer than it takes for the forced to recruit their forces. May we seek peace that is eternal and look forward to the time when our soul and spirit will dwell in new bodies with Him in eternal bliss. --Kenneth Martin

CHILDREN'S PAGE: TWO LITTLE BOYS WERE BORN

Two weeks ago there was a little boy born. He has brought us a lot of joy. He and his mother had all the nicest things to make them comfortable while in the hospital.

Many years ago another baby boy was born. His name was Jesus. There was no nice room for Him. He was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Animals were sleeping in the room where He was born. He grew and played just like the other children. Soon He was a man. Jesus never treated anyone badly. He lived a good life. Many people were jealous of Him. They tried to kill Him. At last the people told enough lies about Him that they nailed this good Man to the Old Rugged Cross. The wicked people thought they had gotten rid of him. But He arose and went to Heaven.

Now Jesus is giving us gifts. You children are receiving the good gifts because your parents are living as Jesus has taught. Many children do not have parents to love them, and many go hungry.

Each evening before you go to sleep you should thank Jesus for sending you to good parents that love Jesus.

--Everett Oyler

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